

SUMMER 2017

THE TORCH

NASHVILLE SCHOOL of LAW MAGAZINE



FEATURE STORY:

**RECENT GRADUATES
MAKE THEIR MARK
AT THE TENNESSEE
COURT OF APPEALS**



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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Each of Us Lines the Path to Continuous Improvement

Change is a constant in today's fast-paced world. Those who are content to stand still will fall behind. Thus, to progress, all of us must accept change and commit ourselves to a path of continuous improvement as we move forward.

Students at the Nashville School of Law are not standing still. They know that success comes only with commitment and hard work, and they are steadily moving forward. Our School is also not standing still. Building on last year's progress, we are continuing to strengthen the curriculum by increasing our emphasis on professionalism, effective legal writing, experiential learning, and bar preparation.

These improvements will be evident throughout the curriculum – from the expanded orientation for first-year students, to the new rigorous writing requirement for second- and third-year students, and to the bar exam workshops for fourth-year students. Each year, we will continually challenge our students to be the best they can be. We will have high expectations,

just as their clients and professional colleagues will when they enter the profession.

Our increased success on the February 2017 bar exam confirms that we are pointed in the right direction. The students, faculty, and staff are committed to overcoming the challenges that lie ahead. Graduates also will have opportunities to lend a hand, either by helping aspiring lawyers find their path to a legal education, by agreeing to mentor a law student, or by participating in our CLE programs.

All of us here at the School are excited about what the future holds and look forward to the journey along with our community of students, faculty, alumni, and supporters.

Sincerely,

William C. Koch, Jr.
President and Dean



RECENT GRADUATES MAKE THEIR MARK AT THE TENNESSEE COURT OF APPEALS

Four attorneys and graduates of Nashville School of Law are helping to craft Tennessee law while paving the way for future students with their work as law clerks for the Tennessee Court of Appeals.

The four alumnae with the plum positions are Amanda Bradley (Henry 2016), Kimberly Faye (Cooper 2015), Emily Harvey (Henry 2016), and Jennifer Marlow (Cooper 2016).

Judicial appellate clerkships are one of the most sought-after jobs for students at most law schools. The job requires keen legal research and writing skills, attention to detail, knowledge of legal citation, and the ability to accept criticism. Many famous lawyers and judges began their legal careers with a judicial clerkship after graduation.

The Tennessee Court of Appeals is the intermediate appellate court for Tennessee created in 1925 that hears appeals in civil

cases. Faye, Harvey, and Bradley all clerk for the Honorable Frank G. Clement, Jr. (1979), who also serves on the School's Board of Trust. Marlow clerks for the Honorable Andy D. Bennett. Faye is the veteran of the bunch, having worked for Judge Clement since her second year of law school in 2012.

"In 2012, [Judge Clement's] assistant of many years was retiring, and he wanted to fill the position with an NSL student," Faye said. "While Judge Clement was a student at NSL, he worked in an administrative position for the Supreme Court, and upon his assistant's retirement, he wanted to 'pay it forward,' so to speak, and give another NSL student that opportunity."

The job can be demanding, but even more rewarding. It requires superior analytical skills, according to Judge Clement.

"The clerk must have excellent analytical

On the cover: Emily Harvey, Amanda Bradley, Kimberly Faye, and Jennifer Marlow all clerk for judges on the Tennessee Court of Appeals in Nashville.

Pictured Above: Jennifer Marlow, who clerks for Judge Andy Bennett (second from left) with Emily Harvey (center) and Kimberly Faye (right), who clerk for Judge Frank Clement (second from right).

skills, meaning the ability to distinguish the forest from the trees. The clerk must also have a thorough knowledge of the law and excellent research and writing skills,” he said. “These skills and knowledge are essential because a clerk must immerse themselves in the record: the transcript of the evidence, the pleadings, motions, orders, and final judgment. Finally, the clerk must identify and apply the applicable standards of review to the facts and law that is relevant to the issue to help me produce an opinion that is respectful of the parties and which comports with the facts of the case.”

Faye was Clement’s first hire of an NSL student. Her superior qualifications landed her the job. Then, he hired Emily Harvey, who finished first in her class at NSL, in December 2016.

“I could not be more pleased with their work,” Clement said.

Bradley started work in Judge Clement’s office on May 15.

“I am excited to join Judge Clement’s staff and look forward to the opportunity to work and learn alongside him,” she said.

Judge Bennett offers similar praise for the first clerk he has hired from NSL.

“Jennifer Marlow has worked for me for four months and done an exceptional job. She approaches her work in a very professional manner. In addition to her research and writing duties, which she has performed well, Jennifer also handles many of the administrative functions that keep my office running.”

The clerks uniformly praise the experience as not only challenging, but also life changing.

“I have most enjoyed the mentors and friendships that I have developed during my clerkship,” Faye said. “Having clerked at the Court of Appeals for almost five years, I consider the judges, my co-clerks, and really everyone at the Nashville Supreme Court Building to be family. Although you may leave the Court to venture into private

practice or retirement, you can rest assured that you will receive an invite to the Supreme Court Building’s annual chili cook-off and the annual holiday luncheon.”

Although not clerking nearly as long, Marlow is having a similar experience learning under the mentorship of Judge Bennett.

“Working for Judge Bennett has been a great experience,” Marlow said. “He is approachable and very knowledgeable about the law. I’ve already learned a lot in the short time I’ve worked for him.”

**“IT’S NICE HAVING
OTHER NSL
GRADUATES AS
CLERKS IN THE
COURTHOUSE
BECAUSE IT FEELS
LIKE A SMALL NSL
COMMUNITY.”**

**— Jennifer Marlow (2016),
clerk for Court of Appeals
Judge Andy Bennett**

The NSL grads also enjoy having each other nearby for advice and feedback.

“I really like working with other law clerks,” Harvey said. “Law clerks value the quality of the work they produce over self-glorification. In other words, clerking is a true behind-the-scenes job with very little ego-driven drama. As a clerk, you have to be receptive to critique and you have to be open-minded.”

“It is nice to have other NSL grads at the

courthouse,” Harvey said. “We’ve all had an unconventional law school experience, and we’ve learned the law from a lot of the same instructors.”

Marlow shares similar sentiments.

“It’s nice having other NSL graduates as clerks in the courthouse because it feels like a small NSL community,” she said. “If I have a question about how something is done, I can always ask one of them and they will point me in the right direction. It’s nice to know that all I have to do is walk next door and I will find an NSL graduate.”

For her part, Faye enjoys serving as a mentor of sorts to the less-experienced NSL law clerks. “I am very proud and appreciative of my alma mater, and it is an absolute joy to introduce fellow NSL graduates as my co-clerks,” Faye said. “The fact that NSL students are procuring coveted appellate law clerk positions confirms the quality of the education a student can receive at NSL.”

The high-achieving grads also have some advice for current students who wish to one day clerk on an appellate court.

“Although there are many ways a student can make themselves a better candidate for a clerkship opportunity, my best advice would be to practice – as often as you can – your research, writing, and analytical skills,” Faye said. Also, always welcome constructive criticism, because it will improve your writing skills and foster a more collaborative writing experience with your judge and co-clerks.”

“I would encourage other NSL students to consider clerking opportunities,” Harvey said. “It is an excellent way to learn the law and how to apply it. I never would have thought as a 1L, reading those opinions and struggling to understand them, that I’d be a part of the process of writing them one day.”

“I would definitely encourage other NSL students to pursue clerking opportunities,” Marlow said. “It is a great learning experience because you get to work alongside some of the best legal minds in the state.” ●

INTRODUCING 2017 CURRICULUM CHANGES

Nashville School of Law is instituting a series of curriculum changes that will be phased in over the next two years with a renewed emphasis on legal writing, bar preparation, and experiential learning.

“These improvements will better enable our students to strengthen skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and effective communicating,” said Dean William C. Koch, Jr., who rolled out the changes to students in March.

Among the changes:

TRIAL PRACTICE SERIES

The introduction of the new Trial Practice Series marks an innovation in the School’s moot court program. The series will allow students to choose from among three different program areas: criminal, civil, or family/juvenile, and then practice the skills needed to successfully navigate a case.

RIGOROUS WRITING EXERCISE

This is a two-year program of independent study in which each student is matched with a writing mentor who is a practicing attorney or judge to develop a significant piece of original legal written work during the second and third years of study.

COURSES REQUIRED TO GRADUATE

Nashville School of Law currently requires 48 credits to graduate, but does not offer credit for Moot Court. Under the new curriculum, 57 credits will be required to graduate, which includes

credit for the Trial Practice Series. Also, Torts II (formerly Advanced Torts) will be a required class.

BAR PREPARATION

In addition to the Advanced Legal Studies Class, students will take a companion Bar Workshop Class for credit that will explore skills and strategies necessary for success on the bar exam.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Several clinic and practical experience opportunities will be formalized and made available to students as part of the regular curriculum.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW AND LEGAL SKILLS & VALUES

The current first-year course, Introduction to Law & Legal Writing will be revamped to include two components: one that introduces students to the study of law and how to effectively communicate legal issues; and one that focuses on elements of being a member of the legal profession.

“With the improvements we are implementing, our curriculum will continue to be the functional equivalent of the curriculum at law schools accredited by the American Bar Association,” Dean Koch said.

The curriculum improvements will be phased in over the next few years, so not all changes will affect current students. The changes will be fully implemented for the 2019-2020 school year. ●



Class of 2017 Presents Gift to School

The Nashville School of Law Class of 2017 presented the school with a custom wood table in the shape of a guitar and adorned with the School’s logo. Dean Koch and several members of the faculty were on hand as the class hosted a reception and presented the gift to the School. The table, which is displayed in the School’s lobby, was made by local custom furniture builder Daniel Martin. ●

Pictured above (from front left): Judge Steve Dozier (1984), carpenter Daniel Martin, and members of the class of 2017 admire the table presented by the class to the School upon the event of their graduation.



First-year student John Romero was awarded with a copy of Steven Feldman’s *Tennessee Practice Series Contract Law and Practice*. The presentation by Feldman himself was in honor of Romero’s top rank in Professor Bill Harbison’s Contracts class. ●

Pictured from left to right are Contracts Professor Bill Harbison, John Romero, Steven Feldman, and Dean William C. Koch, Jr.

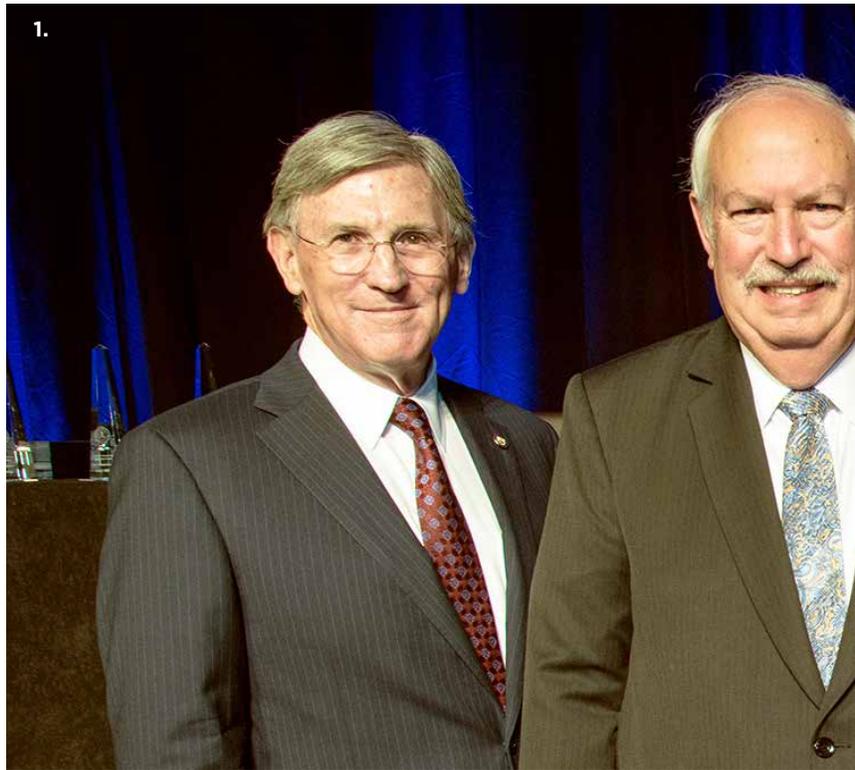
The Nashville School of Law recognized three leaders in the legal community at its 24th Annual Recognition Dinner on June 9 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel. Alumni Mary Frances Rudy and Larry R. Williams were graduate honorees and the Honorable Robert E. Corlew, III was faculty honoree.

Following a reception where nearly 500 alumni, supporters, and members of the legal community mingled, Dinner Committee Chairman Charlie Niewold (1984) kicked off the evening's festivities. Judge Sam Coleman (1989), newly appointed General Sessions judge in Davidson County, gave the invocation.

After dinner, Dean William C. Koch, Jr. introduced and recognized each of the award recipients:

CHANCELLOR ROBERT E. CORLEW, III
Chancellor Corlew, of Milton, served on the faculty from 1999 to 2014, teaching law students in Negotiable Instruments, Remedies, and Secured Transactions. Corlew retired from the bench in 2014 after 30 years in the judiciary and has spent his time in leadership roles with Lions Club International, most recently serving as president of the worldwide organization.

Chancellor Corlew also has been active in the Boy Scouts of America, the Jaycees, and the American Red Cross. He served on the city council in Murfreesboro and was a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve. Corlew received his undergraduate degree from Davidson College and his J.D. from St. Mary's University. Chancellor Corlew and his wife, Dianne, have five children and eight grandchildren.



Photos copyright Susan Adcock Photography



LARRY R. WILLIAMS

Williams is a graduate of the class of 1974 and president of the Law Office of Larry R. Williams, a Nashville firm focusing on personal injury cases, Social Security disability, and business law. Williams was an instructor at the School for 22 years, teaching Local Government and Evidence. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Nashville Bar Association.

Williams earned his undergraduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University and taught at Nolensville Elementary School and Northside in the early 1970s while attending law school at night. Larry and his wife of 46 years, Marilyn, have two children and four grandchildren. His son, Jonathan, is also a graduate of the School.



MARY FRANCES RUDY

Rudy, a 1988 graduate of the School, is founder of Rudy Title and Escrow, a title insurance company that started in Nashville's Hillsboro Village neighborhood and has now expanded to include an office in East Nashville. The firm, established in 1999, employs more than 30 people, serves the entire state, and has closed over 45,000 real estate transactions.

Rudy is a lifelong Nashvillian and her family has a rich history in the area. Rudy's Farm Sausage, from the family farm near today's Opryland Hotel, was a staple throughout the South. Rudy herself helped promote the sausage, singing with her sister in their red checkered dresses. Rudy, a graduate of Two Rivers High School and Belmont University lives in Nashville with her husband, Joe Burnett, and has four children, 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. •

Pictured left to right:

1. Dean William C. Koch, Jr., with honorees Chancellor Robert E. Corlew, III, Mary Frances Rudy, and Larry R. Williams.
2. Board of Trust member John T. Rochford, III, Carol Rochford, Dianne Kirby, and Mike Kirby.
3. Board of Trust member Tom Cone (1964) and Criminal Court Clerk of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Howard Gentry.
4. Joe Russell, Supreme Court Justice Cornelia A. Clark, Supreme Court Chief Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins, and Anne Russell (1984).
5. Dean William C. Koch, Jr., Marilyn Williams, Larry R. Williams, and Jonathan Williams (2007).



JOANNA MCCRACKEN: MEDITATION PROVIDES BALANCE IN HECTIC LIFE OF FAMILY LAW ATTORNEY

Family law practitioner Joanna McCracken believes in the value of hard work and the benefits of meditation. The Nashville-based lawyer should know, as she sacrificed to put herself through law school and now teaches meditation to others.

Born in London, England, McCracken attended two private girls' schools, followed by a public school at 16, and lived in a show business family – her mother an actress and her father a director. She had parts in television commercials as a young child and dabbled in acting on and off as she was growing up. At 19, after a year off from her schooling to travel, she attended the School of Oriental and African Studies—now called SOAS—at the University of London, majoring in African Studies and Swahili.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to do career-wise. I just wanted to explore and find out what life had to offer,” she recalls. The third year of her college study was spent in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where she was to study Swahili at the local university. However, riots broke out due to a lack of government funding for the semester and made for a dangerous situation. So, McCracken left the campus and deferred her studies. Undeterred, McCracken stayed in Africa,

rented a house, and immersed herself in the culture for the next year.

McCracken returned to London, completed her studies, obtained her Bachelor’s degree, but chose to return to acting. Although she landed several roles, she quickly found she was not passionate about it. Instead, the creative McCracken began exploring singing and songwriting and spent time in Nashville pursuing a music career. It was during a trip that McCracken met her now ex-husband and future father of her two daughters, and moved to Nashville permanently.

Specializing in a blend of folk and country, McCracken enjoyed the scene in Music City but developed such an appreciation of the level of talent that she determined she was not really cut out for the artist life.

“Nashville’s music talent is phenomenal and quite intimidating,” she said.

She found work as a receptionist for a music publishing company and later became the publishing manager and copyright administrator at Tom Collins Productions on Music Row. She thoroughly enjoyed

negotiating licenses and contracts. Her love of legal language got her thinking about law school.

After her first daughter was born, McCracken needed a more flexible schedule and also a new career challenge. She obtained a real estate license and worked her way up to be a broker. She once again found herself enjoying interpreting and analyzing the language of contracts. As a broker, she saw firsthand how language made or broke deals.

In 2009, upon separating from her husband, McCracken found herself alone with a one-year-old and four-year-old. She loved law and thought a legal career would better provide for her children. She learned about Nashville School of Law – a place where she could work during the day and attend school at night.

“For me, it was the only option,” she said.

Just before starting law school, the real estate market went in downward spiral, and McCracken had to find new work quickly. She took on cleaning jobs to make ends meet and rented out part of her home. Determined to break into the legal market, she mass-mailed law firms all over town, offering to work initially for free. Attorney Ana Escobar gave her a chance.

“Ana said she was impressed by my tenacity,” she said of the attorney whom she calls a valued mentor. For part of her law school career, McCracken juggled being a mother, a law student, and holding down three jobs simultaneously – seven days a week. She worked for a law firm, a real-estate developer, and cleaned houses on the weekend.

It was an astoundingly trying experience, but she kept going. She also loved learning torts from Judge Marshall Davidson and domestic relations from Judge Philip Smith.

During law school, McCracken found her way to meditation, something she’d been exposed to and tried many times during her life but had never made a commitment to.

“I turned to it initially as a source of refuge from my crazy life,” she said. “But, the more I practiced it, the more it became a tool to help me engage with my present experience and learn not to stress about things that were

simply is my mind in that moment.” She practiced primarily at home, then tried the Nashville Zen Center, the Tibetan Buddhist Center, and Against the Stream Buddhist Meditation Center where she has become a regular practitioner and even leads groups on occasion.

During law school, after working for Escobar and other attorneys in the same office, McCracken landed a legal assistant job at Hall Booth Smith, PC, where she worked for the last

**“WITH FAMILY LAW,
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THERE IS NOTHING
MORE FASCINATING
TO ME THAN THE
HUMAN MIND.”**

—Joanna McCracken (2013)

two years of law school. Upon graduating, she was offered an attorney position, which she transitioned into easily, having worked on the cases and with the other attorneys for so long. She was quickly taking depositions and arguing motions in Court, gaining a great amount of experience in a short amount of time.

“I was incredibly fortunate to get an attorney position right off the bat,” she said. “And with the opportunity for so much experience. I know many of my classmates had a harder time finding work.”

STARTING HER OWN FIRM

McCracken worked at the firm until January 2016, when she and Heather Piper, another associate at Hall Booth Smith, decided to start their own law firm. The two had a passion for domestic relations and wanted to be their own bosses.

“Our decision was somewhere between brilliant and foolish,” said McCracken. “It was terrifying but we did it.” Piper McCracken, PLLC focuses on family law.

McCracken has praise for the Nashville legal community that helped the young attorneys with referrals and encouragement. She cares deeply for her clients and empathizes with their stresses and strife.

“Law is always challenging and interesting,” she said. “But, with family law, you have the additional aspect of the human psyche and dealing with it in the most challenging of circumstances. There is nothing more fascinating to me than the human mind.”

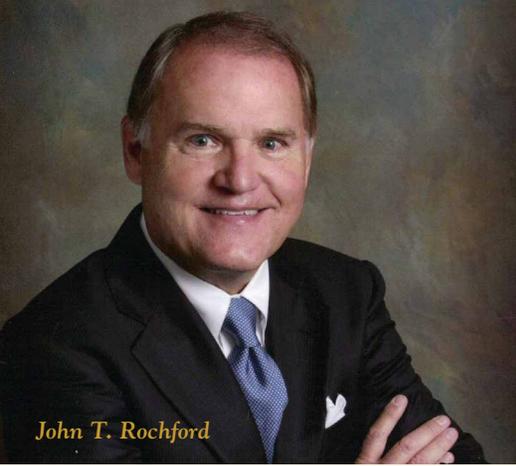
VALUE OF MEDITATION

Meditation helps one understand their mind, their emotions, their body, and what they experience as their reality. “Meditation has changed my life in every way,” she said. “It has changed how I see myself, how I see others, and completely changed my perception of the world around me.”

She said meditation also has improved her abilities as an attorney and given her better insight into her clients’ needs, troubles, and aspirations. “I can truly listen without adding my own narrative and my own experience,” she said. “I have empathy instead of judgment.”

“I think my clients know that I truly care about them,” she said. “Meditation has helped me to see situations from different perspectives.”

She helps others with meditation and hopes to expose more Nashville School of Law students to its benefits. She spoke on a panel on stress management at an NSL class last fall and will speak about meditation at the orientation in July 2017. ●



John T. Rochford



STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM \$60,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Rochford Donates Funds for New Student Scholarships

Nashville School of Law graduate and Board of Trust member John T. Rochford, III has donated \$10,000 in scholarship money to the School.

The Rochford Financial Aid Fund will be made available to incoming first-year students. This is the first time the school has funds available to assist incoming students.

Rochford, of Nashville, graduated from the School in 1974 and is president and founder of Rochford Realty & Construction Company, which builds custom homes, multi-family housing, residential developments, retirement communities as well as commercial projects. He joined the Board of Trust in 2016. •

Nashville School of Law awarded nearly \$60,000 in scholarships to second-, third-, and fourth-year students for the 2016-17 school year. Here are the recipients:

JOHN B. DOWNEY, JR.

- Mr. Billy Leslie
- Ms. Deborah Mumford
- Mr. Andrew Nutt
- Mr. William Sanders
- Ms. Anetra Smith

JOHN JAY HOOKER, JR.

- Ms. Liz Hernandez
- Mr. Ryan Pratt
- Ms. Jessica Schultz
- Mr. Luke Willoughby

JUDGE CHARLES GILBERT

- Mr. Donald Turner

LUTHER E. CANTRELL, JR.

- Mr. Austin Lucas

GENERAL SESSIONS JUDGES CONFERENCE

- Mr. Michael Rexroat

MR. AND MRS. STEPHEN HURD

- Mr. Will Ayers
- Ms. Andrea Pierpoint

SCOTTISH RITE

- Ms. Ashley Fine

PAUL HOLBROOK

- Ms. Alysse Gregory

THOMAS F. CONE, JR.

- Mr. Andrew Bellm

W. P. COOPER

- Mr. Timothy Horne

J. G. LACKEY, JR.

- Ms. Andrea Smith

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CHARLES O'BRIEN

- Ms. Heather Meshell

JUDGE HARRY LESTER

- Mr. Jonathan Carroll

JO ANN FENTERS

- Ms. Tammy Anderson

TENNESSEE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

HONORING J.S. "STEVE"

DANIEL AND SUZANNE

G. KEITH

- Andrew Nutt

CHANCELLOR

IRVIN KILCREASE

- Anetra Smith

TRUSTEE & FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

- Mr. David Aguilera
- Mr. Mark Atchison
- Ms. Meghan Blackwell
- Ms. Terria Blunt
- Mr. Dylan Bruner
- Mr. Kyle Cokkinias
- Ms. Tessa Courtney
- Mr. John Deakins
- Ms. Shauna Dixon
- Mr. Wayne Edwards
- Ms. Sheral Gambrell
- Mr. Elliott Graves
- Ms. Galen Gray
- Mr. Peter Harris
- Mr. Wesley Holder
- Mr. Brian Horowitz
- Ms. Marissa Keen
- Mr. Jeff Kiener
- Mr. Henry Miller
- Ms. Keller Mizell
- Mr. Doug Neeley
- Ms. Amanda Stacy
- Ms. Sarah Vivet
- Ms. Randi Ward
- Mr. Shay Watson
- Mr. Michael Weston

JEFFREY MOBLEY: HE WROTE THE BOOK ON WILLS



Jeffrey Mobley

Nashville-based attorney Jeffrey Mobley is not only an outstanding lawyer, but also a modern-day Renaissance man. While he excels at providing expert advice on wills and trusts, he is equally comfortable shooting hoops on the basketball court, enjoying life at a music concert, or engaging students in the classroom.

Born in the Bluegrass State, Mobley attended junior high in his birthplace of Lexington and high school in Campbellsville. His first passion was theater, following in the footsteps of his father who taught theater at Campbellsville University.

“I loved the theater but shifted my interest when I realized I had to wear tights too much,” he quips.

He also played sports with a particular passion for basketball.

“I come from a basketball family,” he explains in an understatement. His daughter plays basketball at Columbia, his son played at Belmont, his nephews at Yale and Amherst, and his twin brother, Greg, at Campbellsville.

Mobley later shifted his interest to the law, as he earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kentucky.

Upon his law school graduation, he moved with his wife, Diana, to Nashville, in part to take care of his wife’s grandmother, who lived to be 103 years old. Mobley joined the law firm Gullett Sanford Robinson & Martin PLC, where he worked for 20 years.

His mentor at the firm was Jack W. Robinson, Sr. Under his guiding hand, Mobley developed an expertise in wills, trusts, and estates. He later joined Robinson as a co-author of the leading treatise in the state on the subject – *Pritchard on the Law of Wills and Administration of Estates*.

“I LOVE THE SENSE OF HELPING PEOPLE THINK THROUGH PROBLEMS AND SITUATIONS. I ENJOY THE OPPORTUNITY TO FREELY AND INDEPENDENTLY PRESENT HELPFUL ADVICE TO PEOPLE.”

— Jeffrey Mobley

Robinson had ‘inherited’ the book from Judge Harry Phillips, who served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. “He asked me to join the Pritchard team for Tennessee and I have been doing so ever since,” he says. Fellow NSL faculty member Andra Hedrick also co-authors the text.

Mobley formed his own law firm in 2003 and later convinced his friend Bryan Howard to join him. The law firm is now called Howard Mobley Hayes & Gontarek, PLLC.

He continues to enjoy the practice of law.

“I love the sense of helping people think through problems and situations,” he said. “I enjoy the opportunity to freely and independently present helpful advice to people.”

In 2015, Mobley joined the faculty at Nashville School of Law to teach Wills. He enjoys interacting and engaging with students.

“I’ve always felt like being a teacher is part of being a lawyer. I was delighted when Dean Koch asked me to join the faculty,” he said. “I love NSL and the students. I also enjoy the camaraderie among the faculty.”

“Mr. Mobley’s teaching style is very conversational,” said recent graduate Mark French Barrett. “He is very engaging as a lecturer. He really gives invaluable insight into the actual practice of law. He has a wonderful energy and keeps you interested in the subject. It is clear that he loves people and his students.”

Mobley maintains a healthy work-life balance, continuing to play basketball in the lawyer league and attending music concerts.

His mantra in life is reflected in the lyrics of a gospel song played at his grandfather’s funeral: “If I can help somebody, as I pass along, then my living shall not be in vain.” ●

ALYSSE GREGORY: DEVOTED TO PUBLIC SERVICE FROM AN EARLY AGE

With her newly minted law degree, 2017 NSL graduate Alysse Gregory is taking her passion for helping others to where her career started – the Legal Aid Society. Helping others comes naturally to her as the child of missionaries working in South America.

Born in Louisville, Ky., Gregory moved to Costa Rica for a year in 1995, as her parents were on mission work with the International Mission Board. The next year, she moved with her family to Argentina.

“Argentina is still a third-world country in some ways,” Gregory recalls. She was only five years old when she moved out of the United States and became fluent in Spanish during her 11 years in Argentina. She believes it was the childhood experiences in the Argentinian cities of Buenos Aires and Córdoba that instilled in her a passion for pro bono work.

She returned to the United States and Middle Tennessee, graduating from Hendersonville High School. While there, a life-changing experience in her family inspired her to pursue a career in law: her cousin was murdered by her husband in Kentucky.

“I attended parts of the trial and saw how the District Attorney’s office rallied around our family. I knew right then and there I wanted to be a lawyer,” Gregory said.

From there, she went to college at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, double majoring in Spanish and women’s studies. After graduating from college, she worked at Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland in Nashville as a family intake specialist. She convinced managing attorney DarKenya Waller, whom Gregory calls her mentor, to take a chance on her. Her fluency in Spanish made her an immediate asset to the office.



Alysse Gregory

“Alysse is an amazing talent,” Waller said. “I first met Alysse when she became employed with Legal Aid Society through our pro bono program. Her specific duties included matching eligible clients with free, private attorneys. She was very good at her job.”

In 2012, Gregory embarked on her legal studies at NSL. For her, the choice was a no-brainer.

“I had to work during the day and NSL is unique in that it affords working people a chance to further their education,” she explains.

She loved many of her classes at NSL, particularly Judge Steve Dozier’s Evidence class.

“Judge Dozier is so passionate about the law and you can tell,” she says. “I really learned the rules of evidence.” She also enjoyed the teaching styles of Judge Marshall Davidson and David Hudson.

During law school, she moved from the Legal Aid Society to the Public Defender’s Office, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and then the Jean Crowe Advocacy Center. She relished the experience at all these jobs. At the Crowe Center, she helped victims of domestic violence in many ways.

While in law school, Gregory has been working hard to increase pro bono opportunities for NSL students.

“Practical experience is so important and I want more NSL students to get involved,” she said.

During law school, Gregory also enjoyed being a student member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court.

“It is amazing to meet so many top lawyers and legal minds in the community at Inn of Court,” she said.

ALLEE-SUTTON HETHCOAT: NSL STUDENT ALSO REIGNING MISS TENNESSEE USA

To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice your gift.”

Such is the aspiration that guides 2017 graduate Allee-Sutton Hethcoat. The talented Middle Tennessee native lives up to her mantra, as a law school graduate and the reigning Miss Tennessee USA.

Born and reared in the Nashville area, Hethcoat earned her high school diploma from Franklin High School before attending college at Belmont University. She earned her degree in mass communication with a minor in sports and media. While at Belmont, several professors encouraged her to pursue a career in law.

“They planted the seed of thought in my mind initially and my dream of being an attorney grew from there,” she said.

When choosing a law school, Hethcoat needed a school that would give her the flexibility to keep working in the entertainment industry, something she had done since high school. A very close family friend also attended Nashville School of Law.

“I’m very grateful to have attended the Nashville School of Law,” she said, echoing the thoughts of thousands of graduates who recognize the unique opportunities the school provides.



Allee-Sutton Hethcoat

In law school, she enjoyed all her classes, but particularly liked Legal Writing, Advanced Torts, Restitution & Remedies, Wills, and Business Associations.

“We’re incredibly lucky to have such well-respected and accomplished individuals take their time to educate us,” Hethcoat said.

She also appreciates the lasting bonds she has formed with numerous classmates.

Hethcoat also has developed bonds with the group of women who participated in the 2017 Miss USA Pageant. Hethcoat achieved a childhood dream by capturing the Miss Tennessee

USA pageant in October 2016, giving her the opportunity to represent the state at the national competition in May.

“When I was in kindergarten, my mother’s friend was Miss Tennessee USA,” she recalls. “She served as a role model for me and in the back of my mind being Miss Tennessee USA was always a dream of mine.”

For the past 12 years, Hethcoat has worked in the entertainment industry as an actress, model, and on-air host. She has had roles in several movies, including Remember the Goal (2016), The Dust Storm (2016), and Static (2014). Her years in the entertainment industry also rekindled her dream of being Miss Tennessee USA.

Nashville School of Law Offering Practical, Affordable CLE

The Nashville School of Law has introduced a series of monthly continuing education courses designed to provide attorneys with pragmatic skills that can assist in their everyday practice.

CLE@NSL is offered the third Wednesday of every month on the campus in the 100 Oaks area of Nashville, with easy access to all major interstates. Classes are 1.5 hours each, start at 6:30 p.m., and include a light meal. Cost for NSL alumni is \$50 for 1.5 CLE credits. Fees for all others is \$65.

Classes already held this year have featured prominent attorneys in their area of practice, including John Day, Phillip Miller, and Jeff Mobleby.

Upcoming classes include Bankruptcy with Henry Hildebrand, Ethics with Randy Kinnard, Parenting Plans with Marlene Moses, Criminal Practice with Tom Thurman, and Administrative Law with Judge Lynn Alexander.

For more information, and to register online, go to www.NSL.law •

DETAILS

**Third Wednesday
of Every Month**

6:30-8 p.m.

**\$50 NSL Alum
\$65 All Others**

1.5 CLE credits

**4013 Armory Oaks Drive
Nashville, TN 37204**

**Register online at
www.NSL.law**

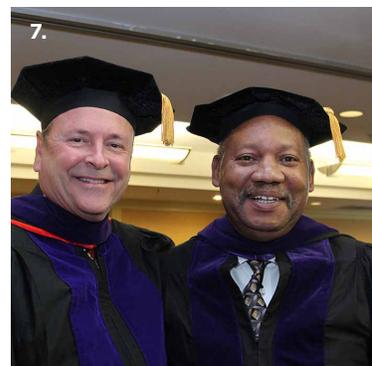
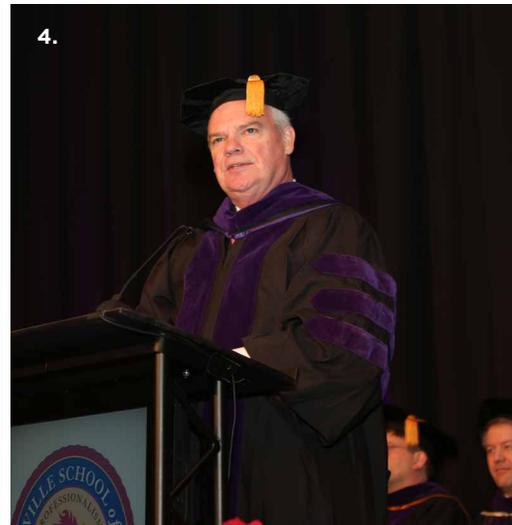
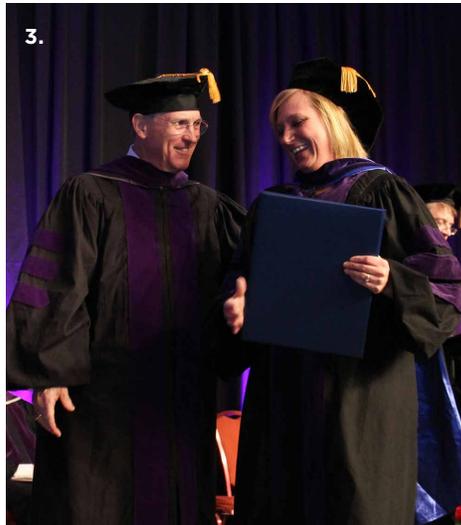
Forty-three graduates of the 2016 Nashville School of Law Henry Term received their law degrees at commencement exercises held December 10 in Nashville.

Commencement speaker Judge Frank Clement, an alumnus and member of the School's Board of Trust, spoke of the importance of the school's mission and history.

"I am proud of the 105-year tradition of our school and the opportunities it provided me and all graduates to not only advance our career, but to also serve others," Clement said.

Judge Clement, who serves on the Tennessee Court of Appeals, remarked at the tremendous variety of roles the School's graduates serve across nearly every county in the state, the 92 alumni that serve as Tennessee judges, and the scores of former students that are elected officials, district attorneys, public defenders, law enforcers, entrepreneurs, and more. He also noted the connection that continues long after students complete their formal education at the School and encouraged graduates to reach out to their fellow alumni for support.

"As you progress in your career, do not merely look up, look in every direction, and, on occasion, even look back to where you have been, for your



Photos Courtesy of Uchida Photography



experiences may help you decide where you should be headed,” Clement said.

Marshall L. Davidson, III, a faculty member of the School since 1992, shared advice he had received from an esteemed mentor as he was starting his career.

“I commend to you the same advice I received as a new lawyer – when professional winds blow hard against your life, as they occasionally will, cling to those anchor points that keep you you – whatever those may be for you, that special friend, your family, your faith, that cause that you’re passionate about – don’t neglect those things,” he said.

That mentor Davidson spoke so fondly of? Chief Justice Frank Drowota, a trustee of the School, who was sitting on the stage as Davidson addressed the graduates.

Graduating student Emily Harvey spoke for the class and outlined the privilege and duty that comes with becoming a member of the legal profession.

“While they have taught us the law, they’ve also trained us for what our primary role in

the legal system will be – that of protector and guide,” said Harvey.

She also spoke to the unique efforts of families and friends of Nashville School of Law students.

“Our families and friends made tremendous sacrifices so that we could focus on school,” she said. “On behalf of all of us, thank you, to all of our family and friends for your sacrifices. If not for you, we would not be here.”

President and Dean William C. Koch, Jr. addressed the Henry class of 2016 as well, urging students to build their personal and professional lives on the foundation of commitment to civility and excellence.

“Today more than ever, our communities need lawyers who are wise, courageous, and creative. You have been chosen to play that role, and I am confident that each of you will rise to the occasion. Remember that you and your school will always be part of one another,” he said. ●

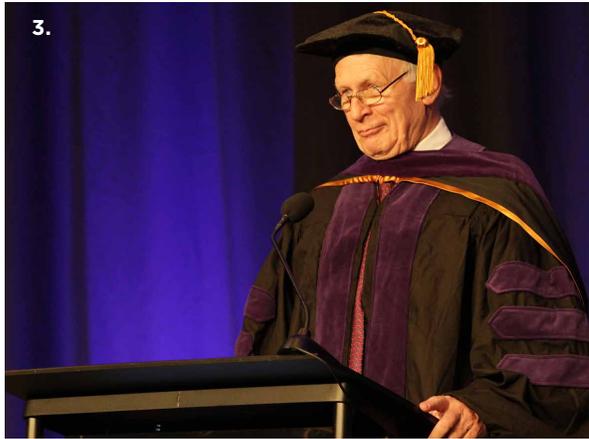


- Pictured left to right:*
1. 2016 Henry Term graduates bow their heads during the benediction, given by Amanda Bradley.
 2. Judge Marshall L. Davidson, III gives the faculty address.
 3. Dean Koch congratulates Jennifer Smith as she receives her diploma.
 4. Judge Frank Clement offers the keynote address.
 5. Graduate Emily Harvey thanks families and friends of her fellow classmates for the support required to be successful in law school.
 6. Graduates Alex Lewis, Amanda Bradley, Marque Young, and Christopher Ryckman get ready to receive their diplomas.
 7. Faculty members Davidson County Attorney General Glenn Funk and Magistrate Carlton Lewis at graduation.
 8. Tiffani Pope celebrates after she receives her diploma.

2017 COOPER TERM GRADUATION



Photos Courtesy of Uchida Photography



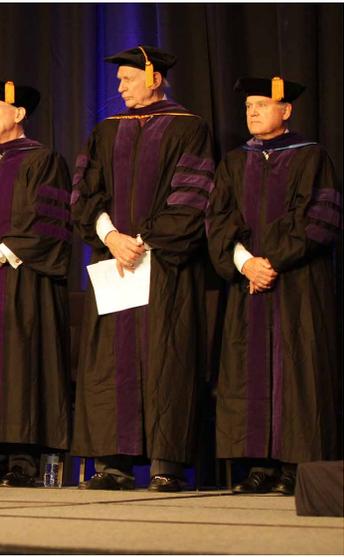
The Nashville School of Law conferred degrees on 68 graduates Saturday, May 27, 2017 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel.

2017 Cooper Term graduates heard from Davidson County Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway, who challenged the students to make a positive impact throughout their lives and to take their experience and the support they received throughout law school and never forget how that helped them.

“Remember to always make a difference,” she said.

The graduates and more than 1,300 people in attendance also heard from Professor R. Eddie Davidson, who teaches several classes at the School.

“This is harder than I thought,” said Davidson, referring to the experience that the students had. “The rewards are out there for you ... the rewards are greater than you can imagine.” ●



Pictured right:

1. Terria Blunt, Deborah Mumford, and Sharon Milling
2. Before the ceremony: William Johnson, Marissa Keen, Bridgit Schofield, and Meghan Blackwell
3. Board of Trust Chairman Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr. extends his congratulations to the class of 2017.
4. Professor R. Eddie Davidson gives the faculty address. Davidson is a 1989 graduate of the School.
5. Shelby Mathews receives her hood from Judge Shelia Calloway.



6. Director of Academic Affairs and Professor of Law David L. Hudson, Professor R. Eddie Davidson, Judge Shelia Calloway, Dean William C. Koch, Jr., Board of Trust Chairman Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr., and Board of Trust member John T. Rochford, III (1974)
7. Andrew Nutt addresses his fellow classmates.
8. Alexander Clark, Sarah Vivet, Doug Neeley, Blake Harper, Jessica Shultz, Chad Turnbow, Michael Weston, and Henry Miller
9. Tian Grace Gao receives her diploma from Dean Koch.
10. Anetra Smith celebrates after the ceremony.



Devoted to Public Service from an Early Age, continued



Pictured above: Gregory assists a client.

Gregory also practiced under Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 with the Legal Aid Society. This gave her the chance to appear in court and try cases. Her performance pleased her mentor, Waller.

“Alysse approached me about mentoring her under Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7 and I could not have been more delighted,” said Waller. “Alysse has a wonderful, upbeat and sweet personality, but don’t let it fool you. In the courtroom, she can be quite the advocate. In her first hearing before the court, I was amazed at how confident and knowledgeable Alysse was. I actually learned a thing or two

on the substantive law during her arguments. I think opposing counsel underestimated her and paid the price for doing so.”

Weeks before graduation, Gregory landed a full-time position as a family law staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland in Nashville.

Her mentor expects great things.

“I have no doubt that Alysse will be fighting for the rights of individuals for a long time,” Waller said. ●

NSL Student also Reigning Miss Tennessee USA, continued

“Many people I met and worked with also competed in or worked in pageants and told me that I should consider competing,” she said. “This year was going to be my last year of eligibility so it became a now-or-never situation. I’m thrilled I decided to take the plunge.”

She considers her victory quite an honor.

“I still find it difficult to express what an honor it is for me to be in this position,” she said humbly. “I’m extremely grateful to serve as a state representative.”

Hethcoat represented her state and her school proudly in the Miss USA Pageant May 14, placing in the top 10 among the 51 contestants.

But, she has definite goals in the legal profession, the foremost being practicing entertainment law in Nashville. ●



Pictured right: Dean Koch and Hethcoat at a reception hosted by the graduating class in April.

2017 PATRON'S RECEPTION



Nashville School of Law supporters celebrated the School and honorees of the 2017 Recognition Dinner at a patron's party hosted by Dean William C. Koch, Jr. at Richland Country Club in May.

Alumnus honoree Larry R. Williams, a member of the class of 1974, and alumna honoree Mary Frances Rudy, of the class of 1988, were lauded by Dean Koch, who also thanked everyone in attendance for their generous patronage. Faculty honoree Chancellor Robert E. Corlew, III was unable to attend, as he was out of the country in his role as president of Lions International.

Board of Trust members Tom Cone (1964), Justice Frank Drowota, Board Chairman Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr., and John T. Rochford, III (1974) were in attendance, along with many members of the faculty, in addition to alumni and other members of the legal community who support the School. ●

Pictured right:

1. Board of Trust members Tom Cone (1964), John T. Rochford, III (1974), Justice Frank Drowota, and Dean William C. Koch, Jr.

2. Alumna honoree Mary Frances Rudy (1988) and her husband, Joe Burnett.

3. 2016 honoree Douglas Hale (1978), Board of Trust member John Rochford (1974), and Charlotte Cone.

4. Faculty members Eddie Davidson (1989), Judge Philip Smith, and Hank Hildebrand.

5. Aubrey Harwell hands off the microphone to Dean Koch after thanking attendees for their support of the School.

6. Justice Frank Drowota, a member of the School's Board of Trust, and his wife, Claire.

7. Alumnus honoree Larry R. Williams (1974), center, with his wife, Marilyn, left, and Leslie Lambert (2016).

SCHOOL HOSTS HELP4TN SEMINAR ON PRO BONO

Nashville School of Law hosted Supreme Court Justice Cornelia A. Clark, Ann Pruitt of Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (TALS), and Lucinda Smith of the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee as part of the statewide HELP4TN Day.

The Tennessee Supreme Court and its Access to Justice Commission designated the day – April 1 – as a day to provide and promote pro bono services throughout Tennessee. Clinics and other sessions were held through the state to offer pro bono services, train providers, and spread the word about the importance of pro bono and how to get involved.

More than 80 people, mostly lawyers and law students, attended the session at the School to learn from these three experts about the impact and importance of pro bono service.

Justice Clark focused on the more than 1.5 million Tennesseans potentially in need of legal services that they cannot afford. She spoke to the commitment the Court has made and the resources the Access



to Justice Commission harnesses to assist agencies and others in providing services.

Pruitt shared information about how TALS coordinates a variety of legal services and administers a legal help phone line, which is staffed mostly by volunteer attorneys.

Smith spoke about how her organization leverages a variety of resources, including staff and volunteers, to help those in need of legal assistance. •

Pictured above: Lucinda Smith of Legal Aid Society, Mary Rose Zingale of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Cornelia A. Clark, and Ann Pruitt of Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO GET INVOLVED:

**Tennessee Supreme Court
Access to Justice Commission:**
www.TNCourts.gov/programs/access-justice

**Tennessee Alliance
for Legal Services:**
www.tals.org

**Legal Aid Society of Middle
Tennessee and the Cumberland:**
www.las.org



Pictured above: Shawn Kohl (2004), second from left, brought members of the Ugandan judiciary to Middle Tennessee to study practices in the United States. Supreme Court Justice Cornelia A. Clark and Chief Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins met with the delegation in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville.

Alum Brings Ugandan Judiciary to Tennessee

Shawn Kohl (2004) brought a delegation from the Ugandan judiciary to Nashville for several days in November as they learned about the justice system in the United States. The delegation served as observers for the Chief Justice of Uganda to benchmark plea bargaining, sentencing guidelines, case management, and other new initiatives of the judiciary to enhance access to justice in their region.

Shawn serves as the national director

in Uganda for the International Justice Mission, which works across the globe to address human rights, law, and law enforcement. Tennessee Supreme Court justices Cornelia A. Clark and Jeffrey S. Bivins met with the delegation in the courtroom at the Supreme Court building in Nashville. The delegation also met with several trial and general sessions judges, prosecutors, public defenders, court clerks, and attorneys in Davidson County. •



ALUMNUS SAM COLEMAN NAMED JUDGE

Nashville's newest General Sessions judge Sam Coleman was sworn in by Dean William C. Koch, Jr. in a ceremony on May 30.

Coleman is a 1989 graduate of the School and has practiced in Nashville, as well as served as a member of the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County. He was chosen in May by the Metro Council

for the position. Coleman will hear criminal cases in the Court's 10th division.

Coleman's son, Darwyn, recently completed his first year at the School. •

Pictured above: Dean William C. Koch, Jr. swears in Davidson County's newest General Sessions judge, Sam Coleman. Coleman is a 1989 alumnus of the School. His son Darwyn, center, will start his second year at the School in August.



Alum presented with new diploma

NSL alumnus Jimmy Vance (1973), lost his beloved wife of 60 years as well as his home and all of their possessions in the Gatlinburg fires last year. Dean Koch had the opportunity to visit Vance, hear about his extraordinary life as a lawyer, and present him with a replacement diploma. The School also worked with the Supreme Court and Board of Law Examiners to replace his law license and certificate of admittance. •

HONORABLE JERRY SCOTT

1941-2017



The Honorable Jerry Scott, who instructed students at Nashville School of Law for a decade in classes including Tennessee

*Honorable
Jerry Scott*

Constitutional Law and Advanced Legal Writing, died in early March.

Judge Scott's legal career began in the U.S. Air Force in the Judge Advocate General's Department and continued as a Military Reserve Judge until he retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Brigadier General. Following his initial military service, he entered into private practice in Waynesboro with the law firm of Keaton, Haggard, Turner and Scott. He served the citizens of Tennessee as a Circuit Judge in the 11th (now 22nd) District, which included Maury, Giles, Lawrence, and Wayne counties; Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals from 1979-1995; and Senior Judge for the State of Tennessee from 2004-2008. He was a partner in the law firm of Scott & Kea in Murfreesboro from 1995-2004 and then Scott and Associates. He taught at the School from 1994-2004. •



LET'S GET TOGETHER

The Class of 2004 celebrated with a gathering at the home of Sunny and Harold Donnelly in late April.

The Henry Class of 2011 gathered at Del Frisco's Grille in Brentwood in January to celebrate their class with just more than five years since their graduation.

The School sponsored a gathering of Cookeville-area alumni at the Del Monaco Winery in Baxter. ●

Pictured above: Members of the Henry Class of 2011.

Pictured left (left to right):

1. Class of 2011 members Mary Alice Akins Carfi and Jennifer Johns with Director of Academic Affairs David Hudson at their reunion.

2. Assistant Dean for Administration Beth McDonald and Sam Benningfield at the fall NSL alumni gathering in Baxter.

3. Class of 2004 members Kimpi King Kendrick, Harold Donnelly, and Blake Kelley.

4. Shawn Fry (1996), Dawn Fry (1999), and Bryant C. Dunaway (2000) at the Del Monaco Winery in October.

5. 2014 grads Jessie Pruett Rucker and Christi Lynn Hale at an alumni gathering near Cookeville.



JUVENILE JUDGE MICHAEL MEISE: DEVOTING HIS CAREER TO HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CLASSROOM & COURTROOM

Every month when he takes the bench, the Honorable Michael Meise, juvenile court judge in Dickson County, reads aloud the public purposes of the state's juvenile court laws. They include: "Provide for the care, protection, and wholesome moral, mental and physical development of children coming within its provisions" and "[g]enerally deinstitutionalize children who have not been found to be delinquent."

"It energizes me and my staff to focus on our important work," said the longtime high school teacher and 2007 Nashville School of Law graduate. "I come to work every day with a purpose."

Meise did not begin his life wanting to be a lawyer. Instead, his first love was music. After graduating from Dickson High School, Meise attended Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, earning a bachelor's degree in music education. His love of music led to a long career in teaching music.

"I've always loved music as far back as I can remember," said Meise. "I still love teaching music with my wife, Cindy."

Meise also has a passion for language, reading, and words, leading him to earn a master's degree in language and literature from Austin Peay.

"I'm not sure there is a higher calling in life than to be a teacher." He and his wife, Cindy Freeman, have taught at Dickson County High School for decades, helping educate countless youth through the years.

For many years, Meise taught English classes. His passion for words and language was evident to many of his friends and fellow church

members, including several local attorneys. They encouraged Meise to try his hand at law school. The only choice for Meise was NSL.

"I love the Nashville School of Law and its mission," said Meise. "I would not be a lawyer without the opportunity to work during the day and go to school at night." Meise excelled in law school, even participating on a mock trial team that traveled and competed against other law schools.

Meise loved many of his classes, including Constitutional Law, Tennessee Constitutional Law, and Moot Court. After graduating, he continued teaching and opened up his own law practice. He took appointed cases, including some that required him to argue before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

His passion for criminal defense led him to work as an assistant public defender, handling loads of cases involving adult and juveniles charged with crimes.

"I loved the work and the commitment of the Public Defender's Office," he said.

However, his legal career took a turn in 2014, when he challenged a 33-year incumbent for the position of Dickson County Juvenile Court Judge. A slogan from his campaign was "Be Wise, Vote Meise." The voters responded to the popular teacher and attorney, and he won in convincing fashion.

Now, Judge Meise continues to have a role in improving the path of young people in his community – both in the classroom and from the bench.

"I love serving the people of Dickson County and I truly enjoy trying to help better young people's lives." ●



Judge Michael Meise

CLASS NOTES:

1977

Assistant District Public Defender **COLLIER GOODLETT** was awarded the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2016 President's Award for the Middle Tennessee region by District Public Defender and Past President Jeffery Harmon. Goodlett is an assistant district public defender in the 19th Judicial District, which serves Montgomery and Robertson counties.

1978

PHILLIP H. MILLER partnered with Paul J. Scoptur on a new book, *Focus Groups: Hitting the Bull's-Eye*. Miller teaches Advanced Depositions Strategy & Practice.



1980



Pictured above: Retired Chancellor Tom Gray, of Sumner County, with his wife, Janice, at the unveiling of his portrait earlier this year.

A portrait of former Sumner County Chancellor **TOM E. GRAY** was unveiled in January at the Sumner County Courthouse. Gray was elected to General Sessions Court Division II where he oversaw juvenile court. He was later elected as chancellor for the 18th Judicial District in 1986, and served until his retirement in 2014.

TOM LAWLESS was named to *Nashville Post's* In Charge – Legal honor roll. Lawless serves as an Oak Hill city judge and on the Tennessee

Registry for Election Finance Commission and the Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct.

1981

BILL PENNY was among the leaders honored by *Nashville Post's* In Charge – Legal honor roll in 2017. The publication specifically cited his expertise in environmental law. He also was named Best of the Bar for Environmental Law by the *Nashville Business Journal*. In addition, Penny was selected by Best Lawyers in America for 2017 in the areas administrative/regulatory law, environmental law, environmental litigation, government relations practice, and water law. He has held the honor since 2005. Professor Penny is a partner with Burr & Forman and teaches Environmental Law and Administrative Law.

1994

LANNIE J. CATES is pursuing an LL.M at the University of Alabama School of Law.

Judge **CHARLES SMITH** won his fifth term as Clarksville city judge in November. Judge Smith has held the office for 16 years.

1995

STEVEN BOURNE of Hopkinsville, Ky., has been named Director of Planning and Development for Walton County, Ky.



JULIE-KAREL ELKIN has returned to Spicer Rudstrom in Nashville as a partner and leader of the new health data practice group. Elkin

worked at the firm for more than a decade until 2007. Elkin also will serve as the firm's health data and privacy officer.

Chancellor **DOUGLAS T. JENKINS** was elected a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, an association of 841 attorneys across the state. Jenkins serves as Chancellor for the Third Judicial District, which serves Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins counties.

1996

SHERIE L. EDWARDS, Vice President of Corporate and Legal for State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company in Brentwood, was elected 5th District Governor for the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors.

1998

The Montgomery County Veterans Treatment Court, which is presided over by Judge **KENNETH GOBLE**, treated participants and their families to a picnic and celebration at Rotary Park in Clarksville. The event included mini games and painting for the kids, as well as a cornhole competition.

1999

ROCKY MCELHANEY was named to *Nashville Post's* In Charge – Legal honor roll.

2000

Williamson County Schools named **DANA AUSBROOKS** in January as the lawyer for the school system. Prior to her appointment, Ausbrooks worked as an assistant public defender for the 21st Judicial District, as a solo practitioner, and as an assistant district attorney general. She also is an adjunct professor of criminal law and criminal procedure at Columbia State Community College.

Circuit Court **JUDGE TED A. CROZIER**, who was elected in 2016 to the 19th Judicial District position in Montgomery and Robertson

counties, attended the Administrative Office of the Court's Judicial Academy in February.

MIKE HAGAR has been appointed as deputy chief of executive services in the newly created Community Services Bureau for the Metro Nashville Police Department (MNPd). Hagar, who most recently served as a captain, has been with the MNPd for 27 years.

ANTOINETTE REGNIER WELCH is the Director of Investigations for Tennessee's Department of Health. Her division has investigators from Memphis to Johnson City who investigate complaints made against health care providers and pain clinics.

2004

DAVID VEILE has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the 21st Judicial District Drug Court, an alternative sentencing program for Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson counties.

2008



Reen Baskin (2008)

REEN BASKIN, deputy director of customer-focused government and director of alternative workplace solutions for the Tennessee Office of Customer-Focused Government was named to the *Nashville Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list for 2017.

Burr & Foreman LLP partner **C. TUCKER HERNDON** was named to the *Nashville Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 list for 2017. The publication noted his work regarding implementing changes in alcohol sales laws in Tennessee.

Governor Bill Haslam appointed **ROBERT TASWELL "TAS" GARDNER** of Paris as the Public Defender for the 24th Judicial District,

which covers Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin and Henry counties. Gardner has served as assistant public defender in the 24th District office in Camden since November 2008. He served as investigator in the office from 1992 to 2008.

2010

MONIKA RIDLEY has opened a law office in Murfreesboro, focusing on family law. She shares office space with **REBECCA LASHBROOK** (2013).

RACHEL ZAMATA has joined the board of the Young Patrons of the American Red Cross Greater New York Region.

2011

MICHAEL PATRICK AUFFINGER opened his own law practice in Murfreesboro, focusing on criminal defense.

MATT BARNES has joined the new Johnson Barnes Government Relations as partner. Barnes formerly was legislative director for the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

JENNIFER JOHNSON is a partner in the law firm Long, Burnett & Johnson, PLLC. She focuses her practice on consumer debtor work and has offices in Mount Juliet and Nashville.

BRANDY SPURGIN-FLOYD has been appointed magistrate in Hamilton County.

RYAN J. MOORE was named to Warren County's Top 40 under 40 this year. He also serves as a municipal judge for the Town of Morrison.

2012

CATIE LANE BAILEY has joined Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis as a policy advisor and attorney. She was previously senior policy advisor and attorney at Miller & Martin. A registered lobbyist, Bailey has experience advising and representing clients in particular on education and housing policy.

KEEDA HAYNES, an assistant public defender in Nashville, participated as a panelist at the Cato Institute's program "The State of American Justice." Haynes' panel focused on "The Human Toll of Incarceration."



IN MEMORIAM:

Clyde Douglas Cluck (1971)

Marjorie Binkley Greer (1940)

Kenneth Ray Harrington, Sr. (1962)

Milton Eugene Henderson, Sr. (1973)

Gayle Anderson Lattimore (2002)

William Charles O'Connor (1958)

Joe A. Tenpenny, Jr. (1963)

Robert Daniel Travis (1982)

John "Jay" West (1979)

Ernest Wilson "Ernie" Williams (1980)



2009

PHILIP A. HATCH was named the 2016 DUI Prosecutor of the Year by the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference. Hatch is an assistant district attorney in the 13th Judicial District.

Pictured left to right: Assistant District Attorney Philip A. Hatch, second from right, receives an award for DUI Prosecutor of the Year. Joining him to receive the award is, second from left, 13th Judicial District Attorney General Byrant C. Dunaway (2000). Presenting the award are, left, Tom Kimball and, right, Jimmy Dunn (1986), of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference.

Class Notes, continued

DANIEL SHEARON has started his own law practice in Nashville, focusing on criminal defense.

BEN SIMPSON has joined the Tennessee Medical Association as its associate director of government affairs. He previously spent three years as legislative liaison and attorney for the Tennessee Department of Health and also worked as a claims examiner for the Tennessee Department of Treasury.

JESSICA SIMPSON has joined Turner Law Offices in Nashville as a staff attorney.

COURTNEY TEASLEY practices in Nashville and specializes in Veterans Administration Claims for veterans who have been injured in VA hospitals.

2013

AMANDA GENTRY is co-chair on the legislative committee of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

DALIS D. HOLLIMAN has been promoted to partner at the law firm of Farrar, Holliman and Butler in Lafayette. Holliman is also a member of Farrar, Holliman and Medley in McMinnville. The two law firms work in partnership. He is also of counsel to the Holliman Law Firm in Carthage, where he works with his mother, Debbie Holliman.

CHRISTOPHER SAVOIE was named vice chairman of the ABA Big Data Committee.

His company, Kyulux, recently was named a Red Herring Global 100 company. His offices are in Boston.

Smyrna Town Court Clerk **BRITTANY STEVENS** was recently presented with a portrait of George Washington by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Tennessee Chapter in Columbia, Tenn. Stevens is on the board of directors of the Sam Davis Home.

2014

TARA GESS is in-house counsel for Construction Enterprises, Inc. based in Franklin. She recently spoke at the Tennessee Association of Construction Counsel's 2017 Spring conference in French Lick, Ind.

2015

CHRIS BEAUCHAMP recently argued before the Tennessee Court of Appeals in Jackson, his first oral argument before the appeals court.

MTR Family Law has added **SADIE RAMSEY DAVIS** as an attorney. Davis previously was a paralegal at the firm. Founding manager of MTR Family Law is **MARLENE ESKIND MOSES**, a 1980 graduate of the School.

KIMBERLY FAYE was selected to Nashville's Top 30 under 30. She also published the cover story for the April/May issue of the *Nashville Bar Journal* entitled "Tennessee Women's Suffrage."

JON GRAVES has joined the law firm of Batson Nolan PLC, which has offices in Clarksville and Springfield. He focuses on real estate and litigation.

The Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce and YP Nashville named **JAMES V. WITTY** a 2017 finalist for the Nashville Emerging Leader Awards in the area of education.

2016

LACEY BUCHANAN has published *Through the Eyes of Hope*, which shares the story of her experience over the past six years raising a son who was born with severe birth defects.

CHRISTIAN CAHILL has been admitted and licensed to practice in the United States Court of International Trade. The designation was granted in November 2016.

HUNTER FOWLER has joined the Law Office of W. Scott Kimberly in Murfreesboro as an associate attorney. Fowler will focus his practice on criminal defense, family law, and civil litigation.

EVAN NEWMAN has joined the law firm of Bacon, Jessee, Perkins, Carroll and Anderson, LLP of Morristown as an associate attorney. Previously Newman interned and practiced law under Bernie McEvoy and during law school clerked at the Nashville law firm of Ortale, Kelley, Herbert and Crawford. ●

BOARD & FACULTY UPDATES:

DANIEL BEREXA, who has taught Moot Court and will be a Civil Trial Practice Series professor next year, was named Best of The Bar for litigation and dispute by the *Nashville Business Journal*. Berexa is a partner with Cornelius & Collins.

NANCY KRIDER CORLEY serves as president of the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee. She also serves as co-chair of the Nashville Bar Association Wellness Committee along with faculty member Mark Westlake.

Board of Trust member and federal **JUDGE WAVERLY D. CRENSHAW, JR.** was recognized with the Francis S. Guess Bridge to Equality Award for his work to help others attain equality and creating opportunities for others. Judge Crenshaw was named chief judge of the Middle District of Tennessee in April.

RAMONA P. DESALVO was named to the Nashville Bar Foundation Fellows Class of 2017. She also was elected Middle Tennessee Governor for the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors. DeSalvo, a member of DeSalvo Law Firm PLLC, teaches Intellectual Property Law.

HARLAN DODSON has been elected a fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, an association of 841 attorneys across the state. Dodson is a Shareholder at Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella in Nashville, where he focuses his practice on business advice, real estate law, and estate planning. He teaches Estate Planning at the School. Dodson was also named Best of the Bar for estate planning by the *Nashville Business Journal*.

The *Nashville Business Journal* has named Nashville School of Law Board of Trust member **AUBREY HARWELL JR.** as its first-ever Best of the Bar Lifetime Achievement Award winner. Harwell is co-founder and chief manager of Neal & Harwell PLC.

Professor **DAVID L. HUDSON, JR.** testified at a hearing before the U.S. House Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Rights on April 4. The hearing concerned censorship on college and university campuses. He also published a book on the First Amendment, *Documents Decoded: Freedom of Speech*, which analyzes keys parts of documents in which foundations of free speech are found. Hudson is the Director of Academic Affairs & Professor of Law at the school.

JOHN KITCH has been elected a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation. He is Of Counsel at Cornelius & Collins, LLP and teaches Law Office Management.



Pictured above: President & Dean William C. Koch, Jr. presented the American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Professionalism & Ethics Award to Robert B. Fiske, Jr. at the Supreme Court of the United States in November. (Photo Courtesy of Kevin Kennedy.)

PRESIDENT AND DEAN WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR. was named to *Nashville Post's* In Charge – Legal honor roll. The publication noted his longtime service to the School.

DIANNE NEAL is on O'More College of Design's Board of Trustees. Neal teaches Advanced Legal Writing at the School.

JUDGE PHILIP SMITH was honored at the Nashville Bar Association's 2016 Annual Meeting and Banquet in December. Judge Smith, who teaches Domestic Relations, received the CLE Excellence Award, for his exceptional service and dedication to providing quality continuing legal education to improve the knowledge and practice skills of lawyers.

M. CLARK SPODEN, a partner with Burr & Forman LLP, was named by *Best Lawyers* as Lawyer of the Year for environmental litigation in Nashville for 2016 and has been recognized among *Best Lawyers in America* for his work in commercial litigation, construction litigation, and environmental litigation from 2010 to 2017. Professor Spoden teaches Restitution & Remedies at the School.

MARK WESTLAKE serves as co-chair of the Nashville Bar Association Wellness Committee along with faculty member Nancy Krider Corley. Westlake teaches Taxation. ●

Judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton to join NSL

Davidson County General Sessions Judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton will join the Nashville School of Law faculty in the 2017-2018 school year, teaching General Session Practicum.



Judge Angelita Blackshear Dalton

Judge Dalton was elected to General Sessions Court Division III in 2006. Before her election, she was an assistant prosecutor for the Davidson County District Attorney General. A native of Nashville, Judge Dalton graduated from Whites Creek High School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Lane College in 1993. She received her law degree from the University of Toledo.

Judge Dalton is a member of the Nashville Bar Association, Napier Looby Bar Association, Lawyers' Association for Women, Nashville Women's Political Caucus, the NAACP, and the Nashville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Judge Dalton is married to Derrick Dalton and they have one son, Ryan. ●



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Dates to Remember:

July 27 & 28
New Student Orientation

August 3
Classes Begin

May 26, 2018
Graduation

June 8, 2018
Recognition Dinner