

FALL 2016

# THE TORCH

NASHVILLE SCHOOL *of* LAW MAGAZINE



FEATURE STORY:

**CLASS OF 1989  
FEATURES FIVE  
SITTING JUDGES**



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# The Nashville School of Law Community

A lawyer's education only begins in law school. It does not end with graduation and passing the bar exam, but rather continues throughout a lawyer's lifetime.

Law schools lay the foundation for a successful legal career. Not only do they introduce students to basic substantive legal principles; law schools also sharpen their students' analytical and writing skills and socialize them to the heightened standards of professionalism, civility and excellence that are the hallmarks of our noble profession.

But law school is only the beginning. It has been said that most lawyers know more law when they take the bar exam than they will throughout their career. There may be some truth to that observation. However, it is also true that a lawyer's understanding of what it means to be a lawyer increases throughout his or her career.

Law schools begin the process of teaching students how to be a lawyer, but the work is carried on over time by the legal community in which the lawyer practices. Judges and experienced lawyers continue the socialization process that started in law school. This is not a modern phenomenon. For centuries, the English Inns of Court have been educating aspiring lawyers in the practical and professional aspects of their craft. They are the communities in which lawyers at the threshold of their careers gain a fuller understanding of their profession by observing judges and senior lawyers in action and by practicing their newly acquired skills under

the supervision of the established leaders of the bench and bar.

In the tradition of the English Inns of Court, the Nashville School of Law and its graduates are a community in which aspiring lawyers can hone their skills and gain a deeper understanding of the role and responsibilities of lawyers. This edition of *The Torch* spotlights the good work the members of our community are doing. It celebrates the varied backgrounds of our current students; it chronicles the impact that our graduates are having, not only in Tennessee but also internationally; and it highlights our faculty and the new courses we are offering to assure that our graduates are among the most "practice ready" in the state.

Stay tuned. There is more to come. We are developing ways in which our graduates will be able to play a meaningful role in the life of the school by volunteering to mentor law students and recent graduates and by assisting in other ways in our educational process. In the coming months, you will be invited to join us in our work. We are glad you are part of our community, and we look forward to your active involvement and support.

Sincerely,

William C. Koch, Jr.  
President and Dean



## CLASS OF 1989 FEATURES FIVE SITTING JUDGES

One hundred ten Nashville School of Law graduates currently sit as jurists in Tennessee. Five of those graduated in the class of 1989, which had fewer than 60 students cross the stage for their law school diplomas.

The sitting judges from the NSL class of 1989 include: Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Tim Easter, Chancellor Howard W. Wilson, Circuit Court Judge Forest A. Durard, Jr., Circuit Court Judge William Ailor, and Criminal Court Judge David A. Patterson.

Judge Easter was the first of the five to join the bench in 1998 as a circuit court judge for the 21st Judicial District serving Williamson, Hickman, Lewis and Perry Counties. He served as a trial court judge until elevated to the Court of Criminal Appeals in 2014. He is one of two active sitting judges from the Nashville School of Law serving on a state appeals court, the other being Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge and NSL Board member Frank G. Clement, Jr. (1979).

Chancellor Wilson serves the 16th Judicial District consisting of Rutherford and Cannon

Counties. Prior to presiding on the bench in Murfreesboro, he had his own law practice and served as an administrative law judge for the Tennessee Department of Special Education for 15 years. In his private practice, Wilson handled criminal law, bankruptcy, workers' compensation, personal injury, construction law and divorce cases.

Judge Patterson won a razor-thin election in 2006 for the Criminal Court judgeship in the 13th Judicial District which serves seven counties in the Cookeville area. A former assistant district attorney, Patterson defeated the incumbent by a mere 10 votes.

Judge Durard began as circuit court judge for the 17th Judicial District — serving Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall and Moore Counties — in 2013. After his graduation, Judge Durard had diverse experiences, working with the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office and in private practice for many years.

"It is a great honor to serve as a judge for the people in my district," said Judge Durard. "I try to give back some to this community every day."

*Pictured Above (left to right): Judge David Patterson, Judge William Ailor, Judge Timothy Easter, Judge Forest Durard, Jr., and Chancellor Howard Wilson*

**“IT WAS A SURPRISE THAT ALL THREE OF US FROM THE STUDY GROUP ENDED UP ON THE BENCH. I WAS THE BIGGEST SURPRISE OF THEM ALL. ”**

**— Judge William Ailor**

Judge Ailor won a seat on the Circuit Court in Knox County in 2014. While in law school, Ailor worked as a paralegal for the law firm Ortale, Kelley, Herbert & Crawford and later worked for Chancellor Irvin H. Kilcrease, Jr. (1966).

Three of the five — Easter, Ailor and Wilson — were all in the same study group at NSL.

“It was a surprise that all three of us from the study group ended up on the bench,” said Judge Ailor. “I was the biggest surprise of them all.”

Chancellor Wilson agrees that it is a “big surprise” that all three ended up as Tennessee jurists, though he said they all shared a solid work ethic.

The class of 1989 judges have fond memories of many of their law school classmates and instructors.

“I very much enjoyed Remedies taught by Judge Ben Cantrell,” said Judge Patterson. “I enjoyed that he was no-nonsense and got to the heart of the issue.”

Judge Ailor enjoyed the Tax Law class from Mark Westlake and the Moot Court instruction of Jack Butler and Tom Carlton.

“They, like so many of our instructors at the Nashville School of Law, were actual practicing attorneys and could give us great guidance on the practice of law and workings of the courts,” said Judge Ailor.

Chancellor Wilson appreciated the teaching of former law school Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr., who provided instruction in civil procedure.

“He was a no-nonsense instructor,” said Chancellor Wilson. “And he made sure that you came to class prepared. If you didn’t come prepared, there was trouble.”

Judge Easter also appreciated the pragmatic instruction he received at NSL.

The class of 1989 judges all fondly recall the interactions some of their instructors had with their classmate Durwood G. Moore, who was not similarly situated to

the rest of his colleagues. While a student at NSL, Judge Moore sat as a general sessions judge in Dickson, a position he held for 40 years from 1974 until his retirement in 2014. At the time he was a student, Tennessee law did not require judges at that level to have a law degree.

“I recall a lot of instructors having fun with Judge Moore in class,” said Judge Patterson. “It was interesting to watch and observe the interactions.”

“I still believe that the Nashville School of Law provides more practical instruction than other law schools,” said Judge Patterson. “I see Nashville School of Law graduates coming out ready to practice law in a courtroom. Many times you don’t see that from graduates at other law schools.”

One of the judges from the 1989 class has come full circle and currently teaches at his alma mater.

“It is an honor to be numbered among the faculty at NSL,” said Judge Easter, who instructs students in Introduction to Law and Legal Writing. “I recall being impressed with many of my instructors as a student. I remember thinking what dedication it must take to practice law in some fashion all day long and then still be able and ready to pass along those experiences as an instructor in class at night. I would get needed energy from that. Now, as an instructor, I get energy from the students who also have put in a long day in the workplace somewhere and are dedicated to more learning and self-improvement.”

Judge Easter says he has incorporated the teaching styles and philosophies of several of his former NSL instructors, including General Tom Shriver, Judge Cantrell, John Lewis, Trevor Howell and George Dean.

“They all had the ability to take a legal concept and go beyond what a stale horn had to say about it,” said Judge Easter. “Lectures would be spiced with examples that would put skin on the sometime dry bones of legal theories, claims and defenses.” ●



# DAVID VEILE ARGUES BEFORE STATE HIGH COURT IN SCALES PROGRAM

In June, Franklin-based attorney David H. Veile (2004) argued his first case before the Tennessee Supreme Court. Not only did he face questioning from the five jurists from Tennessee’s highest court, but he also answered numerous questions from high school students participating in American Legion Auxiliary Girls State.

The Court selected *Hughes v. Tenn. Bd. of Prob. and Parole* as one of the cases to be heard as part of the Supreme Court’s Advancing Legal Education for Students (SCALES) program. Under this program, high school kids from Boys or Girls State have the opportunity to witness oral argument and then ask the attorneys questions about the case.

The Court appointed Veile to represent inmate Reginald Hughes, who was refused the right to challenge his parole denial because he had unpaid court fees. Veile contended this deprived his client of access to justice.

He relished the experience before the Court and the students.

“I am most grateful to the Court for allowing me to represent Mr. Hughes and to be part of this important case,” he said.

Veile also called the questions from the young ladies, “a highlight of my career.”



David Veile

“The questions they asked ranged from specific issues about this case to my practice of law in general, including what inspired me to become an attorney,” he said. “I could tell from several of the questions that a number of these young ladies were considering the law as a vocation.”

Veile said his education at the Nashville School of Law prepared him well in the practice of law, including appellate cases in the Tennessee Court of Appeals and the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

“I can say without hesitation that the education I received at the Nashville School of Law prepared me for my practice in general, and for this case in particular, in ways that no other law school could,” said Veile. “I was fortunate to have two Tennessee Supreme Court justices (the late Justice Adolpho A. Birch and current NSL Dean William C. Koch, Jr.) as instructors at NSL. Although these

instructors are no longer members of the Court, having the opportunity to interact with these lions of the bench on a daily basis gives an edge to anyone who may ultimately be called to argue a case in front of the highest Court.”

“The role that my education at NSL played in my practice cannot be overstated,” he continued. “I consider myself exceptionally fortunate to have attended NSL, and I look forward to its continued success.” ●

# DAVID AGUILERA: LEGISLATIVE AIDE SEEKS TO BE VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS



*Pictured above: David Aguilera and State Sen. Sara Kyle*

**S**econd-year law student David Aguilera aspires to be a voice for the voiceless. The native of Eastern Bolivia has already accomplished much in his young life, overcoming language barriers and financial hardships to serve as a legislative aide to State Senator Sara Kyle (1987).

Born in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Aguilera traveled with his parents to New York City in 2000. His family then moved to the city of Wauseon in Northwest Ohio. In high school, Aguilera excelled in both academics and athletics.

After high school, Aguilera traveled back to New York City to work for his uncle in construction. He needed to earn money for college. While there, he saw undocumented immigrant workers badly mistreated.

“I witnessed, on multiple occasions, undocumented immigrant workers from different companies working among us being constantly exploited,” he said. “Often they were insulted, kicked out after completing their labor, and sent home empty-handed.

These injustices went unreported because they feared it would draw attention to their undocumented status.”

Aguilera wanted to help but knew he couldn’t intervene.

“My lack of legal knowledge at the time restricted me from taking further action. It was this helpless feeling that originally sparked my interest in law,” he said.

After working in New York City, Aguilera attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He majored in political science and participated in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

“The most invigorating part of this experience was the process of drafting legislation, and ardently defending the policies that I considered most important,” he explained. “This experience fostered my attraction to state politics.”

He parlayed his experience with drafting legislation into a legislative aide position with Senator Kyle.

“There is great satisfaction when the Governor signs a bill into law that our office worked hard for, and knowing the tremendous positive impact that it will have in the life of Tennesseans,” Aguilera said. “Those moments are the ones that make your job a reality and remind you why you do what you do.”

Aguilera chose the Nashville School of Law because it gives him the opportunity to work during the day and further his studies at night. He also appreciates the practical instruction from his professors.

“What’s truly unique and sets NSL apart from other law schools is the first-hand experience and perspective that you get from the school’s faculty, which includes practicing lawyers and judges from across the state,” he said.

Upon graduation, Aguilera hopes to “help those who are voiceless individuals” like the immigrants he witnessed being mistreated.

“I believe the Nashville School of Law will help me get there,” he added. •

# DR. BILL LUNDERS: ER DOCTOR LOVES LEARNING LAW

No one would ever could accuse 65-year-old, fourth-year Nashville School of Law student Dr. Bill Lunders of being lazy. The practicing emergency room physician could have retired years ago after a distinguished career in medicine. Instead, he not only continues to practice medicine, but also is enrolled in law school.

Dr. Lunders grew up in the small farming community of Hoven, S.D. He went to high school in the town of fewer than 700 people and then went to college at South Dakota State University. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the Army for two years before going to medical school at the University of South Dakota.

Dr. Lunders began practicing medicine full time in 1979. Over the next 35 years, he practiced in the emergency rooms of more than 50 different hospitals in Kansas, Missouri, Washington and Tennessee.

He first became interested in law after becoming a defendant in a medical malpractice suit. He prevailed in the lawsuit and realized that he would like to learn more about the law and its intersection with medicine. Several years ago, his daughter expressed an interest in going to law school and told her father about Nashville School of Law.

Dr. Lunders checked into it and realized law school would be a good move for him. He determined he could arrange his medical

work schedule to coincide with the school's offering of night classes.

In law school, he really enjoyed learning about Constitutional Law.

"Protecting the rights of individuals is a big deal to me, something really near and dear to my heart," he said. "I also enjoyed the intellectual challenge of learning about separation of powers and other core concepts."

Dr. Lunders couldn't be happier with his selection of the Nashville School of Law.

"It is the perfect choice for me," he said. "NSL is designed to teach people how to do the practical things of law every day. I enjoy practical education."

He also relished the opportunity to work under the tutelage of Tennessee Senior Judge Paul Summers and Judge Summers' staff attorney, Wayne Sutter (2014).

"That was a tremendous opportunity to work with those talented individuals and to see how the judicial system works," he added.

As for the future, Dr. Lunders hopes to parlay his expertise in medicine and law into a job that allows him to use both areas.

But one thing is for sure — he won't retire.

"I can't quit working," he said. "If I stop working, I'd be so bored I couldn't stand it." •



*Dr. Bill Lunders*

## John Rochford, III Joins Nashville School of Law Board of Trustees

Alumnus John T. Rochford, III has been named to Nashville School of Law's Board of Trustees effective immediately.



Mr. Rochford, of Nashville, is *John T. Rochford, III* 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 received his J.D. from NSL in 1974.

"There is no way to measure the benefits of the school and its impact on my business and my ability to succeed. I am honored to have a role in shaping the bright future of Nashville School of Law," Rochford said.

Rochford joins Chairman Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr., Thomas F. Cone, Sr. (J.D. 1964), Justice Frank F. Drowota, III, Judge Frank G. Clement, Jr. (J.D. 1979), and Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr., on the NSL Board of Trustees.

"Nashville School of Law is fortunate to have an alumnus of John's caliber on its Board of Trustees," said Nashville School of Law Dean William C. Koch, Jr. "His experience as a graduate, a successful businessperson, and an esteemed member of the community will be of great benefit to our institution."

Rochford also has served on various boards such as the Regions Bank Advisory Board, Belle Meade Plantation Executive Committee, Montgomery Bell Academy Board and The Friends of Warner Park Advisory Board. He is a member of state and local bar and realtor associations.

Rochford earned a B.S. in business administration from Youngstown University. He received his J.D. in 1974 and became a member of the Tennessee bar that same year.

John is married to his wife of 40 years, Carol, and has four children: Trey, Diane, John Cobb and Elizabeth, and six grandchildren. •

# DANITA MARSH: FORMER POLICE OFFICER OVERCOMES TRAGEDY TO PURSUE DREAM

In today's world, the words "heroine" and "hero" are often overused. But, there are rare individuals who earn the accolade. Second-year Nashville School of Law student Danita Marsh is one of those special few.

A former Metro Nashville police officer, Marsh answered a domestic violence call on the job in October 2006 and found her life profoundly altered. Marsh helped an abuse victim, but faced heavy gunfire in the process. A man shot her five times, nearly killing her and partially paralyzing her body. Such devastation would stop most individuals — but not Danita Marsh.

She has rebounded in an inspiring way. In 2010, she became a Rule 31 mediator and works at the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center. Marsh also attends night classes at Nashville School of Law and has been recognized by the 100 Black Women Foundation, Inc., which established a scholarship award in her name.

Marsh began her life journey in Humboldt. Her family moved to nearby Jackson, where she graduated from Jackson Central-Merry High School in 1994. She entered college at the University of Tennessee at Martin, initially unsure of her career plans.

She then began a Master's program at Tennessee State in Nashville. It was there that she thought of pursuing a career in law enforcement and enrolled in the police academy in 2003. Three years later she suffered the traumatic injuries in the line of duty.

"I was able to move on after being injured in 2006 by the grace of God," said Marsh. "Honestly, I can't say that I did anything extraordinary. The more I worked at rebuilding my life and staying positive, the more things fell into place. For example, I signed on as a volunteer mediator for the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center and was offered a job after an assistant district attorney learned that I was training as a volunteer."

She has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support she received following the tragedy.

"I was very surprised at the amount of community support I received after my ordeal," she said. "Being a transplant from West Tennessee and not having any family in Nashville, I did not expect the community to rally around me like they did. I am extremely humbled by their support."

Marsh also resumed her academic enrichment. She completed a Master's degree in criminal justice at Southern New Hampshire University in 2012. A few years later, she enrolled in the Nashville School of Law, a natural progression from her work in law enforcement, mediation and conflict resolution.

She credits her mentor, former assistant district attorney Rosemary Ducklo Sexton, for encouraging her to pursue her dream of a law degree. Sexton graduated from NSL in 1983 and mentioned the school to Marsh.

Marsh chose the Nashville School of Law because of its "orientation toward non-traditional students, affordability, and accessibility." She enjoys learning from her instructors, who are judges and practicing attorneys.

She is keeping her options open as to future career plans, but knows she wants to practice law in Nashville.

"I'm particularly interested in sports law and entertainment law," said Marsh. "Nashville appears to be a great city for those two specialized areas of law. I also hope to work with legal aid at some point in my career." ●



Danita Marsh

# TIM HORNE: LAW ENFORCEMENT VETERAN LOVES CRIMINAL LAW

It takes a special person to travel nearly 800 miles per week, forego vacations for five years, be deployed to Germany during law school and even sleep in one's car overnight to fulfill a dream. But that's exactly what fourth-year NSL student and Sullivan County-native Tim Horne did to obtain his law degree.

Horne has been fascinated with law for as long as he can remember. However, after graduating from Sullivan North High School, he went into law enforcement, fulfilling a 19-year stint with the Kingsport Police Department.

Horne also served his country in the Air Force for five-and-a-half years, including during Operation Desert Storm. He remains active in the Armed Reserves, recently receiving a promotion to captain.

During his time as a police officer, Horne interacted with several young attorneys who commented that Horne knew more law than they did. Several of these attorneys encouraged Horne to look into law school. For him, there really was only one cost-effective option in the state of Tennessee — the Nashville School of Law.

Horne appreciates the real-world experience that he has received from his NSL professors.

“Our instructors are judges, practicing lawyers and people who have done more than theorize about law,” he said. “They have been in the trenches.”

He says a defining moment for him came

during his second year of law school in Judge Don Ash's Civil Procedure course.

“Judge Ash told us that a grade doesn't define you,” said Horne. “That was a pivotal moment for me. I focus more on learning the material than worrying about the grade.”

He also expresses praise for the Moot Court instruction and practical experience he has received from Judge Mark Fishburn.



*Tim Horne*

Also invaluable to Horne has been his internship experiences. He has worked at the First Judicial District, District Attorney's Office under Tony Clark and the Second Judicial District Public Defender's Office under Steve Wallace.

“I'm particularly blessed to get the opportunity to work on both the prosecution and the defense side

of criminal cases,” Horne said. “I've gotten to see both sides of the spectrum and it has challenged me to think more broadly.”

Horne has approached his studies and his internships with the same tenacity that he showed as a stellar member of law enforcement and the military. His dedication may be best exemplified by the fact that he often slept overnight in his car in Nashville to save money.

“I wasn't going to let anything stop me from getting my legal education,” he added.

It is that level of sheer determination and hard work that will make Tim Horne successful in the practice of law. ●

## Nashville School of Law Offers Advanced Depositions Class



*Phillip Miller*

Renowned trial attorney and lecturer Phillip Miller returned to his law school alma mater this summer to teach a class in Advanced Depositions. Miller, who graduated from the Nashville School of Law in 1978, has taught practicing lawyers at the National Judicial College, Harvard Law School, Duke Law School and the American Association for Justice Convention in Montreal, Canada.

Miller specializes in helping practicing lawyers hone their litigation skills. But this past June, Miller had a new audience — a group of Nashville School of Law students eager to learn from the litigation specialist.

“It was interesting to teach these skills to law students instead of practicing attorneys, who have been my usual audience,” said Miller. “I tried to integrate the practice how-to by requiring students to demonstrate the necessary skills.”

“It is a very practical, hands-on course for those who are going to practice law and be involved in litigation,” he added.

For the course, Miller used his own book, *Advanced Depositions Strategy and Practice*, which he co-authored with Paul J. Scopur, a Wisconsin attorney also known for his deposition expertise.

“I really tried to increase the comfort level and lower the anxiety level of the students,” said Miller. “I explained to them that this is not rocket science. I told them ‘you can do this as well as anyone out there.’”

Students appreciated his course and teaching style.

“This class was a very practical, hands-on experience,” said third-year student Steve Jones. ●

# NSL HONORS TWO GRADUATES, FORMER FACULTY AND DISTINGUISHED JURIST

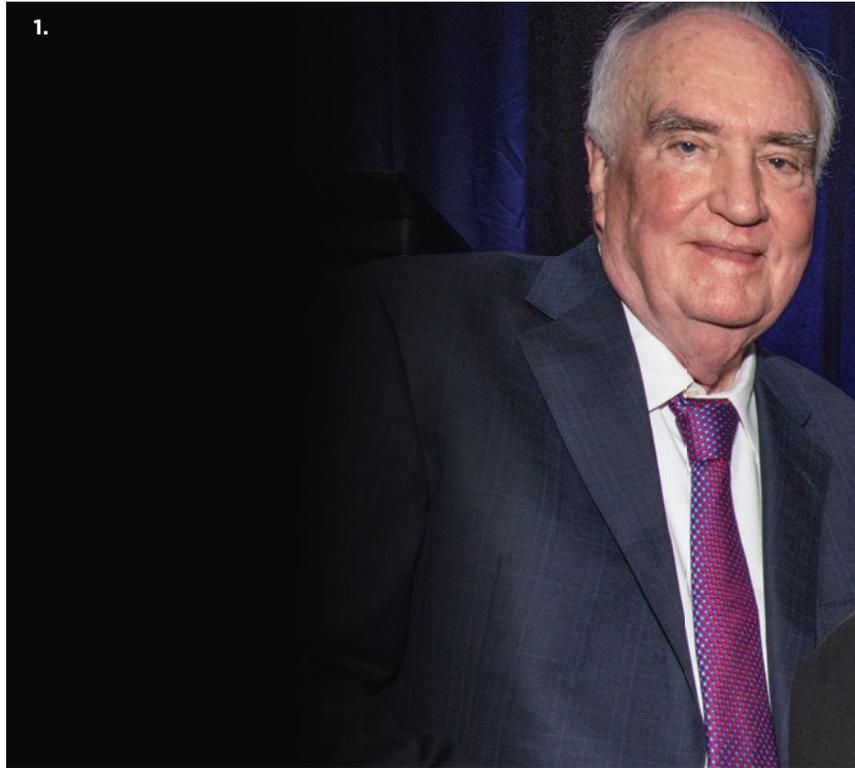
**O**n June 10, the Nashville School of Law’s 23rd Annual Recognition Dinner honored two of its graduates, a former faculty member, and a distinguished jurist.

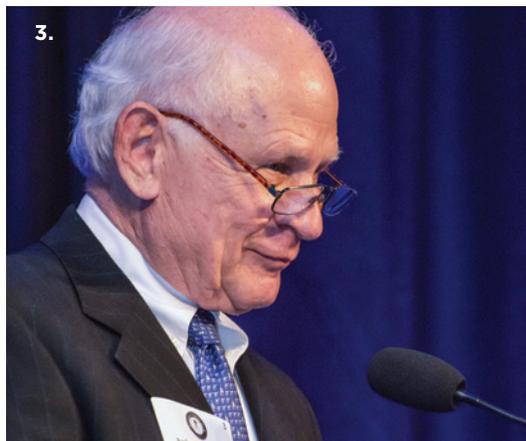
Held at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel, the dinner drew more than 600 people, including hundreds of alumni, lawyers and community leaders from across the state for an exciting evening.

The school honored Franklin-based attorneys and spouses Brenda Franks Hale (1977) and Douglas S. Hale (1978) as its distinguished graduates. The couple tirelessly supports the school, including opening their home for an alumni event every August.

Hal Hardin, a former U.S. attorney and Circuit Court judge, taught Criminal Procedure and Federal Sentencing at the school for more than a decade. He thanked all of his former students in a humorous, self-deprecating address.

The dinner also featured bestowing the Community Service Award upon Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey, senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Dean William C. Koch, Jr. delivered a memorable speech that recounted the honoree’s multi-faceted and trailblazing legal career. Judge Daughtrey’s distinguished journey includes time as a law professor at Vanderbilt, an assistant U.S. attorney, a judge on the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, and a justice on the Tennessee Supreme Court. ●





*Pictured left to right:*

*1. Honorees Hal Hardin, Brenda Hale, Doug Hale, Judge Martha Craig Daughtrey*

*2. Susan Dulin, Beth McDonald, Sharonda Greene, and Heather Carr*

*3. Chairman Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr.*

*4. Judge Waverly D. Crenshaw, Jr.*

*5. Tom Lawless (1980)*

*6. Dean Koch and Debby Koch*

*7. Larry Williams (1974), Jonathan Williams (2007), and Megan Williams*

# INTERNSHIPS OFFER NSL STUDENTS LEGAL EXPERIENCE

**T**he Italian inventor, painter and scientist Leonardo Da Vinci once wrote, “Experience is a truer guide than the words of others.” This idea applies to law students who wish to learn more about the actual practice of law. Absorbing legal principles and doctrines is valuable, but there is no substitute for hands-on experiential learning.

Nashville School of Law embraces experiential learning and affords students opportunities to obtain real legal — even courtroom — experience through its internship program. Under Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 7, Section 10.03, students in their third and fourth years can obtain a limited license to practice law — often called a Rule 7 license — under the supervision of a licensed attorney such as a district attorney, public defender or member of a legal aid office.

Once approved, a NSL student who completes 50 hours of work, provides examples of work product and receives a favorable evaluation from their supervisor can earn one hour of academic credit. But, the experience gained from these internships is worth far more than an hour of academic credit; students learn the actual practice of law.

Several NSL students have enjoyed the experience immensely.

Fourth-year student Tim Horne enjoyed it so much that he did two internships, one for

academic credit and another simply for the experience. He first interned with the Public Defender’s Office in the Second Judicial District under Public Defender Steve Wallace and Assistant Public Defender Doug Vance. He later did an internship with the District Attorney’s Office in the First Judicial District under District Attorney Tony Clark and Assistant District Attorney Janet Hardin.

“They didn’t pull any punches with me,” said Horne. “I was not forced to the sidelines. I got actual courtroom experience. I can still remember being handed a stack of cases and being told to interview clients.”

“There’s something to be said for being in a real courtroom when freedoms and rights are on the line or when a wrong has been done,” he said. “It is not like Moot Court where you stop to discuss strategies, tactics or legal theory. You have to be able to think on your feet and move quickly, because the margin of error is almost non-existent when it is the real thing.”

His supervising attorneys applauded Horne’s efforts and the internship program.

“Tim did a great job,” said Vance. “I could give Tim a docket right now and he could do it on his own. I have had probably 30 interns at my office during my time here; Tim was by far the best intern I’ve ever had. If we had a position at our office right now, I’d tell my boss to hire him.”

Assistant District Attorney Janet Hardin in the First Judicial District echoed his thoughts.

“Our entire office appreciated the fact that we were able to utilize Tim as our intern. He did everything an attorney would do. He argued a motion to dismiss successfully against a veteran public defender. He drafted a brief in a case involving a writ of coram nobis. He did a great job in criminal court.”

Vance supports the Rule 7 internship process. “I think it is a great program,” he said. “Anyone going through law school should get an internship.”

Both Vance and Hardin said that Horne progressed to the point where he significantly reduced their workload.

Horne wasn’t the only NSL student to gain a positive experience from an internship. Laura Eaton says the practical experience she learned was invaluable.

“I learned things I could never learn in a classroom. Preliminary hearings were my favorite. It definitely boosted my confidence,” said Eaton. “After getting up in front of the judge I felt like, ‘Wow! I can really do this. I’m actually going to be an attorney.’”

Marcus Lipham, a former police officer, gained invaluable experience in his Rule 7 internship under the supervision of Tom Crider, the public defender for the 28th



*Pictured above (left to right): Laura Eaton, Marcus Lipham, Tim Fowler, and Tim Horne*

Judicial District. Liphman put in more than 1,000 hours during his internship.

“Mr. Crider and his staff worked with me on every step in the criminal litigation process,” said Lipham. “The experience I received has allowed me to learn the different judges in the district and their expectations.”

“I consider my internship with the Public Defender’s Office to be of paramount importance to my legal education,” he said. “The opportunity provided me with role models and near constant encouragement. In my particular situation, I am over 40 years old. The internship allowed me to cut much needed time off the learning curve in my future practice. The Nashville School of Law’s part-time program regularly attracts students in my demographic and the internship program can similarly assist them.”

Tim Fowler, a classmate of Horne and Lipham, also did an internship at the 28th Judicial District’s Defender’s Office.

“The insight I gained from the internship experience was really important,” he said. “There are so many things you just don’t think about in law school that you learn through the internship experience.”

Fowler, a former law enforcement official, said he learned a lot about sentencing issues. He participated in proceedings in General Sessions Court in Crockett County,

Humboldt General Sessions Court and Trenton City Court.

Horne, Eaton, Lipham and Fowler respond emphatically when asked whether NSL students should apply for an internship.

“Absolutely. The practical knowledge gained during the internship process was invaluable,” said Fowler.

“I realize that most NSL students are not in the unique situation that I am in and able to spend the number of hours that I have been able to serve in the internship,” added Lipham. “I would encourage any NSL student to take advantage of the internship program regardless of how little extra time they may have. The benefits are tremendous and the connections are life-lasting.”

Several NSL students said the internship also afforded them the opportunity to meet attorneys and others in the legal community.

“It was a great networking opportunity,” explained Eaton. “I met so many local lawyers. Hopefully, I have made some connections that will help me secure employment once I pass the bar.”

“Absolutely, I would recommend the internship to any NSL student, particularly those who have a genuine and sincere desire to litigate in a courtroom,” said Lipham. ●

**“I WOULD ENCOURAGE ANY NSL STUDENT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM REGARDLESS OF HOW LITTLE EXTRA TIME THEY MAY HAVE. THE BENEFITS ARE TREMENDOUS AND THE CONNECTIONS ARE LIFE-LASTING.”**

**—Marcus Lipham**

## FACULTY PROFILE: NANCY KRIDER CORLEY

### TEACHER, LAWYER AND TRAILBLAZER



*Nancy Krider Corley*

**N**ashville-based attorney Nancy Krider Corley has practiced law for 45 years, taught at her alma mater Nashville School of Law for more than 30 years and broken down gender barriers along the way.

The native of Paris, Tenn. didn't start out thinking she would be an attorney. Rather, she excelled in debating both at E.W. Grove High School in Paris and at Vanderbilt University, where she majored in philosophy, English and speech.

Her goal upon graduating was to teach, and she did so in Arkansas when her husband Richard was in the Air Force there. She also coached debating and forensics in Little Rock and eventually at Litton School in East Nashville. She says her experience teaching in high schools during those early years has helped her as a law school teacher today.

In addition to teaching, Corley also tried a stint as a bank teller. The experience was less than ideal.

"It was an absolutely miserable experience," she said. "I was the worst teller they ever had."

She then applied for a job with a state legislative committee and was turned down because she was not a lawyer.

That experience got her thinking about the possibility of law school and a decision by Richard sealed the deal.

"Richard said he was going to go to the YMCA Night Law School," she said. "I didn't know what that was, but I was interested in law and wanted to spend more time with him and said, 'Well, I'll just go with you.'"

#### LAW SCHOOL AND PRACTICING LAW

Corley enrolled at YMCA Night Law School, which later became Nashville School of Law, and found herself sitting in her first course, Property, taught by Tom Holman.

"I knew within the first 30 minutes that I was in the right place," she said.

She enjoyed her experience, though she noted that Richard often had to stand watch outside the bathroom because there were no restrooms for women.

Upon graduating, Corley finished at the top of her class. She bonded with her classmate Jane Franks, who was one of the few females in the 1970 graduating class, and Muriel Robinson (1968). Franks and Robinson later became judges.

Corley said she owes "the biggest debt" to two of her instructors, Holman and J.G. Lackey, Jr.

"They hired me when I got out of law school even though I had three children under the age of three," she said. "They also hired me on a flex schedule before anybody ever heard of the term."

She started out practicing real estate, representing insurance companies and handling defense litigation in general. She also developed expertise in defending workers' compensation cases. She represented Nashville Bridge Company, Nashville Memorial Hospital, Nashville Machinery, several trucking companies and many insurance companies through the years.

All these years later, Corley still loves the practice of law.

"I like the intellectual stimulation of how you practice law," she said. "I like to read the books and figure out the answers. I also like the presentation part of the practice of law."

Just as importantly, she loves the opportunity to help people in need.

"There are so many people who are powerless in a situation," she said. "I like practicing law because it gives me an opportunity to give other people some power."

While her legal career speaks for itself, Corley also expressed satisfaction in helping pave the way for future generations of female lawyers.

"It didn't really dawn on us at the time, but we few female lawyers knew we had to be super-prepared and really good at our jobs because we wouldn't get any quarter. If we failed, people would say women really shouldn't be practicing law," Corley said. "Muriel Robinson, Jane

**“THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE POWERLESS IN A SITUATION. I LIKE PRACTICING LAW BECAUSE IT GIVES ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE OTHER PEOPLE SOME POWER.”**

— Nancy Krider Corley

Franks, Cissy Daughtrey, Ruth Kinnard, Jayne Ann Woods, Rose Palermo and myself — we knew we had to do a great job.”

As a lawyer, Corley has broken down many gender barriers, serving as one of the first female attorneys to try a civil jury case in Middle Tennessee. She also was the first female member of the Tennessee Defense Lawyers. She integrated the Nashville Bar Picnic, the men’s lunch table at Satsuma’s, the men’s table at Zager’s, and other events traditionally reserved only for men.

“I even partially integrated the Barristers Club,” she recalled. “They let me join the auxiliary Barristers Club.”

#### POLITICS

Corley loves not only law, but also politics. She was one of 13 women to serve on the 1977 Tennessee Constitutional Convention that led to many changes in the state constitution and was elected Middle Tennessee Vice President.

“That was a great experience,” she said. “I met many amazing lawyers and people during that time.”

She particularly enjoyed working on the spending limitations committee with Charles Burson, who later became the state attorney general.

Through the years, Corley has also served on the Hendersonville Planning Commission, the Sumner County Planning Commission and the Sumner County Commission for 16 years.

#### TEACHING AT NSL

In 1985, Joe Loser had moved from teaching Workers’ Compensation to teaching Civil Procedure. Dean Lackey asked Corley if she would step in and teach the Workers’ Compensation class. She readily agreed and has done so ever since.

“I really enjoy teaching,” she said. “It has allowed me to keep my hand in the teaching profession, which is where I started out many years ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the students over the years.”

“There are some amazing stories of sacrifice with some students,” she added. “I admire their grit and determination.”

Sadly, Corley lost her husband Richard in 2009, but continues to practice law at Corley Henard Lyle Levy & Langford while relishing her friends, family and life. ●

## Nashville School of Law Hires Wojciechowski as Director of Communications

Michele Wojciechowski (2012) has joined the Nashville School of Law staff as director of communications and engagement. Previously, she worked as the communications director for the Administrative Office of the Courts.



*Michele Wojciechowski*

“We are delighted to welcome Michele back to the Nashville School of Law in this new role,” said Nashville School of Law’s dean William C. Koch, Jr. “We are looking forward to the work she will be doing to strengthen the school’s connections with current students, its far-reaching network of graduates, and with the broader community.”

Wojciechowski, who began her new role on Nov. 1, served as the communications director for the Tennessee judiciary since 2012 where she was responsible for the communications and outreach efforts of the state appellate and trial courts, including the Tennessee Supreme Court. She has extensive journalism experience, working for newspapers such as The Tennessean and the Chicago-based Daily Herald.

“I am thrilled by the opportunity to have a role in continuing the tradition of this Nashville institution, which has educated some of the state’s finest legal professionals for more than 100 years,” said Wojciechowski. “I am one of countless examples that embody the unique mission of the Nashville School of Law — to provide a legal education to those that may otherwise find one unattainable.” ●

1.



2.



3.



4.



7.



8.





On May 28, 2016, 62 men and women graduated from the Nashville School of Law at a ceremony held in the Renaissance Nashville Hotel ballroom.

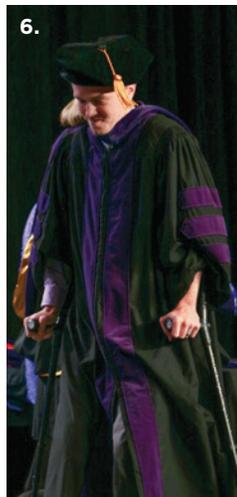
Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Cornelia A. Clark delivered the commencement address, recounting the inspiring tale of British Olympic athlete Derek Redmond who pulled a hamstring during his 400 meter race at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but hobbled to the finish line with assistance from his father.

“Do not ever be stopped, do not ever be sidetracked, do not ever be discouraged, do not ever fear,” she told the graduates. “Focus on your goal and continuing moving toward it no matter what challenges arise on the road ahead.”

Kimberley Reed-Bracey delivered the faculty address, which was filled not only with practical advice, but also with Haitian proverbs.

“Find the subject matter which moves your heart,” she said. “Make a difference ... Find your passion to help others.”

Christian Yale Cahill delivered the student address and Jennifer Saint Marlow closed the ceremony with the benediction. During the ceremony, Cahill, Marlow, Eugene Frank Guerre III, Jeremiah Hassler, Charles Vance and Nathan Grindstaff earned induction into the prestigious Cooper’s Inn Honor Society, reserved for those in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. For the first time in school history, three individuals — Marlow, Guerre and Hassler — jointly won the Founder’s Award for having the highest grade point average. Jeffrey Alexander Vernon captured the Moot Court Award for outstanding preparation, participation and performance in the courtroom. ●



*Pictured left:*

1. Graduates Lee Jackson, Christopher Cronk, and Brittany Davis
2. Dean Koch and Benjamin Goss
3. Justice Cornelia Clark
4. Justice Clark robing graduate Charlie Jackson
5. Kimberley Reed-Bracey delivering the faculty address
6. Charles Parks
7. Dean Koch
8. Justice Clark robing graduate Jeremiah Hassler
9. Carlos Lara robed by Justice Clark
10. Christopher Cronk and Justice Clark



## ALUMNI PROFILE: SHAWN KOHL

**M**any attorneys perform pro bono hours, handling cases without compensation. Other attorneys provide other forms of public service. Nashville School of Law alumnus Shawn Kohl has taken public service to a more profound level, devoting his life mission to international human rights in the developing world.

Kohl works as an international human rights lawyer with the International Justice Mission (IJM), serving as the organization's national director of Uganda. Living in Kampala, Uganda's capital, Kohl battles against gender-based violence, including the protection of widows and orphans.

He previously worked for IJM in Kenya, Cambodia and Rwanda, combatting human trafficking, slavery, police abuse and sexual violence against children.

"IJM assists poor people who are being victimized by working with the host country through direct service provisions and longer-term programs to change the public justice system so that poor people are better protected," he said. "I really enjoy this work and IJM is exceptional. Through our programs, we strive to create safer

communities for the poor, who otherwise have no voice and cannot stand on their own.

"People talk about terrorist acts, but the harsh reality is that every day there are millions of children and women that are abused. Everyday violence is a scourge on our planet that our generation must address," Kohl added.

Before he embarked on his career as an international human rights lawyer, Kohl grew up in Nashville. He attended high school at Father Ryan, where he grew strong in his Catholic faith.

"My high school had a big influence on my life by stressing service to others," he said. "I also traveled abroad and saw other cultures during high school and my time at the University of Dallas."

### TIME AT NSL

After graduating from college in Texas, Kohl joined the Peace Corps for two years where he met his wife, Jenny, who was also volunteering. He eventually returned to Nashville and decided to

give law school a try while he worked for a pharmaceutical company during the day. He chose the Nashville School of Law in part because his brother Jeff had graduated from NSL and helped Kohl pay for his first year of law school.

“I enjoyed Judge Dozier’s Evidence class and remember his stories and photos, which really brought the lessons to life,” he said. “I also enjoyed Judge Koch’s Con Law class and the humor we shared, especially on the free speech cases.”

He is also grateful for his study group, which included classmates Steven Grauberger and Cathy Hickerson, without whom he said he may not have made it. Kohl won the Moot Court award and graduated in 2004.

“I love the Nashville School of Law and its mission of providing an affordable legal education to working men and women,” he explained. “I wanted to go to law school, but had a family to support. Nashville School of Law provided me a viable option.”

After graduation, he entered private practice with the law firm of Spicer Rudstrom, PLLC. He practiced civil litigation defense and also gave many hours as a guardian ad litem in juvenile court. He soon became inspired by the story of a Chattanooga-based lawyer who took his family of seven and traveled to India with International Justice Mission to fight modern day slavery. That attorney was Philip Langford, who would eventually be Kohl’s boss at IJM.

Kohl absolutely loves his current work. “I feel like I don’t go to work anymore. It is more of a privilege to get to be a part of this work,” he said.

However, his work and life are not without risk. He has had two attempted home invasions and an attempted carjacking while serving in Kenya. But to Kohl, the rewards far outweigh the risks.



He credits his wife for taking the lead in rearing their four children and having the patience to handle all of the challenges that go along with life in the developing world, including the sicknesses, crime, traffic, isolation and missing family and friends back home. Their children attend an international school where they experience other cultures and meet people from all over the world.

“I have a rewarding life and career,” said Kohl. “We feel that God has given us this opportunity to serve him through the poor clients and staff at IJM. It is truly a blessing to us.” ●

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ON THEIR OWN. ”**

**—Shawn Kohl**



## IN MEMORIAM:

*Rosalind Akin (1979)*

*Thomas D. Benson (1963)*

*Charles "Boyd"  
Coleman, Jr. (1985)*

*William Kent Coleman (1983)*

*Larry J. DeWane (1976)*

*Wallace W. Drueck (2002)*

*Finley W. Harbison (1973)*

*Art Johnson (1988)*

*Patricia King (1980)*

*Jack Norman, Jr. (1950)*

*Dale Quillen (1956)*

*Judy S. Roberts (1980)*

*William Donnell "Don"  
Young, Jr. (1968)*

## KIM ADKINS: LOBBYIST ACCUSTOMED TO EXCELLING

**L**obbyist, entrepreneur and licensed lawyer Kim Adkins has always been a high achiever, from her youth in Jackson, to her days as a college tennis stalwart, to her career in government affairs.

After graduating high school in Jackson, she attended the University of Tennessee and Middle Tennessee State University, where she earned Ohio Valley Conference honors for the Lady Raiders on the court. Her sporting career taught her the values of hard work and self-confidence.

After college, Adkins had the opportunity to work on the 2000 presidential election campaign. She worked as a fundraiser and on the Florida recount.

"It was a phenomenal opportunity, she recalled. From there, she worked at the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation.

Adkins eventually decided to further her education and chose the Nashville School of Law — a place where she could obtain an affordable education at night and continue her ascent in the professional world during the day.

She enjoyed the intellectual experience of law school, particularly her Constitutional Law class taught by Dean William C. Koch, Jr.

"Justice Koch was a favorite professor of mine," she said. "He was tough, but his Constitutional Law class provided depth and substance, a real-world perspective and history lessons."

Another of her favorite classes was Criminal Procedure, taught by Hal Hardin.



*Kim Adkins*

Law school was a special time for Adkins, in part because she met her future husband there. Greg Adkins also excels professionally, serving as President and CEO of the Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Association and as the Chair of the Board of the International Society of Hotel Association Executives. The

couple is part of the ownership group of Blue Moon Waterfront Grille.

Predictably, Kim Adkins performed well in law school, graduating in 2006 in Cooper's Inn Honors Society, the distinguished circle reserved for students who finish in the top 10 percent of their class.

"I was surprised," Adkins said modestly. "One of my biggest strengths and weaknesses is that I work really hard."

Adkins went on to co-found The Capitol Strategy Group in 2007 with Randy Button. In this position, she works on business procurement and business development.

# MICHAEL SMALLBONE: FRANKLIN-BASED ATTORNEY LOVES TO HELP HIS CLIENTS WITH IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Attorney Michael Smallbone knows how immigrants feel. As one himself, he became stranded in Canada for three months before being able to enter the United States.

“Being an immigrant myself, I completely understand the anxiety that is felt as you place your ‘case’ in the hands of the USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services),” he said.

Born in Sydney, Australia, Smallbone moved to Chicago in 2000 to complete his collegiate studies. He recalls that as he traveled to the United States via Canada, an immigration attorney told him to wait in Canada for a few days while his work visa processed. His student visa had expired. Several days turned into several months.

“Three months later I was still stuck in Canada, and started to work out the U.S. immigration system from a layman’s perspective,” he recalled. He was finally able to legally enter the United States but that experience forged his resolve to study immigration law.

He went to work for an immigration attorney and learned the system even more. Smallbone then moved to Middle Tennessee and worked as vice president for Premier Speakers Bureau.

“I oversaw all of their international business and contracts, in addition to several other business sectors,” he explained. “I spent a considerable amount of time in Asia and the Middle East developing business and traveling with some of the world’s finest speakers.”



Michael Smallbone

Though he had a successful career, Smallbone maintained the desire to obtain a law degree and work in immigration.

“I had always wanted to go to law school, but didn’t want to stop working,” he said. “I had several friends who went to NSL, and after hearing their stories, I decided to apply.”

He enjoyed most of his classes at NSL, but singles out Entertainment Law taught by the late Bob Sullivan and Bankruptcy taught by Hank Hildebrand as especially enjoyable.

“Bob Sullivan was, and remains, a legend within the entertainment community in Nashville,” said Smallbone. “Although the class scared me to death, Hank Hildebrand made Bankruptcy one of my most interesting classes, which was a big surprise.”

After graduating from NSL in 2008, Smallbone quickly found his niche, setting up his own practice and focusing on immigration law.

## Legacy of Jack Norman, Jr.

Nashville attorney Jack Norman, Jr. (1950) left behind a rich legacy and life, passing away at the age of 89 in August 2016. The son of legendary lawyer Jack Norman, Sr. — and the brother of Circuit Court Judge Seth Norman — Norman Jr. made his name representing music legends and practicing family law in the later years of his career.

Norman Jr. lived life to the fullest, participating in a wide range of extra-curricular activities such as skydiving and piloting. His brother, Judge Norman, told *The Tennessean*, “He did a little bit of everything in his lifetime. He was a modern-day adventurer is what he was.”

Norman practiced law for 50 years and retired as Settlement Judge for the Circuit Courts of Davidson County.

He served in the Army during WWII, served in the Air National Guard as Commander of the 118th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, retiring as Lt. Col.

He was Past Potentate of Al Menah Shrine Temple, a member of the Nashville and Tennessee Bar Associations, and a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Norman is Survived by his wife of 37 years, Barbara Norman; daughters, Pia (Dr. Charles) Stratton, Valerie (John) Sanders, and Melody (Dr. Jorge) Vela; grandchildren, Delia (David) Darst, Hal Davidson Hardin, John Tyler (Stephanie) Hardin, Dr. Octavio Vela, Jorge Vela, and Dr. Jack Vela; siblings, Carolyn Norman Tune, Judge Seth (Donnie) Norman, Julian (Eileen) Norman; 5 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. •

# CLASS NOTES:

## 1980

**MARLENE MOSES** has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2017. She is the founding partner of MTR Family Law, PLLC.

## 1984

**JEANNE (RICKEY) CHICK MARQUARDT** currently serves as development director for The Nashville Shakespeare Festival, which produces Shakespeare in the Park and Winter Shakes at Belmont's Troutt Theater. She retired from law in 2011 after a 25-year career that included stints as vice president and legal officer at SunTrust Bank, assistant attorney general, and director of legal services for the Department of Children's Services.

## 1986

**JAMES BRUCE (JIMMY) DUNN** was elected president of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference. He serves as district attorney for the 4th Judicial District, which covers Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson and Sevier counties.

## 1989

**BRIAN GRISHAM** was elected president of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training. Grisham serves as director of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

## 1994

**ROBYN FRANK SMITH** is an instructor in Conflict Resolution at Wilmington University in Delaware. She previously worked for a mediation group in Raleigh, N.C., and prior to that, practiced law in Tennessee.

## 1996

**THOMAS B. NORRIS, JR.** served as a supervising attorney for the August 2016, Tennessee Online Justice Clinic at NSL, and served as a supervising attorney for the Juvenile Court Custody Clinic at NSL in spring 2016. He also addressed the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and its recent regulatory enforcement actions.

## 1997

**DAVID A. GOLD** opened the Gold Law Firm in Memphis in 2011. He focuses on personal injury law and represents small businesses. He also defends attorneys, judges and other professionals facing disciplinary charges. He donates his time every month with the Memphis Area Legal Services' Saturday Morning Free Legal Clinics.

## 1998

**TRACY PELHAM** joined the Waller law firm in September 2016 as counsel in the firm's Commercial Real Estate department.

## 2000

**C. JAY INGRUM** graduated from the Tennessee Bar Association's Leadership Law Class for 2016, where he received the TBA Leadership Law Larry Dean Wilks Leadership Award. He is also participating in Leadership Middle Tennessee, a year-long leadership program covering 10 Middle Tennessee counties. He is in his 16th year practicing law at the law firm of Phillips & Ingrum in Gallatin.

**DEVIN M. WELLS** was named general counsel of TRICOR in May 2016.

## 2003

**NICK LEONARDO** was recently elected as the District 1 representative on the Davidson County Metro City Council, which includes the communities of Bordeaux, Joelton, Scottsboro and Whites Creek. He is in private practice at Duzane, Kooperman & Mondelli and is a two-time, Emmy-nominated CBS legal analyst in Nashville.

## 2007

**STEPHEN SMITH** was named senior advisor for policy and strategy for Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam. Smith has been a deputy commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Education.

**ALICE W. WYATT** and her daughter **CHARLI WYATT** (2016) have partnered to form The Law Office of Alice W. Wyatt, PLLC. The general practice firm is based in Dunlap and serves several counties in southeastern Tennessee.

## 2008

**DAVID O'NEIL** is the president of the Williamson County Bar Association for 2016-2017. He is the captain of criminal investigations for the Brentwood Police Department and a special prosecutor for the Williamson County District Attorney's Office.

**TODD A. STALEY** recently became the legislative liaison/assistant general counsel for the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions.

**NEIL THOMPSON** is a partner at King & Thompson Attorneys at Law. His firm has offices in Huntingdon and Paris, Tenn. Thompson focuses his practice on criminal defense, personal injury and family law.

## 2009

**JENNIFER FIOLA** opened the law firm Fiola Law in Columbia. She focuses on juvenile, family and criminal law.

**PHILIP A. HATCH** was recognized as the 2016 DUI Prosecutor of the Year by the Tennessee District Attorneys General.

**ANDY MALONEY** is president and owner of Nashville Title and president-elect of the Tennessee Land Title Association. In 2013, he started E610 Athletes, a faith-based athlete representation firm. He represents players in the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

**CHELSEA NICHOLSON** practices criminal law in Nashville. She also serves as a part-time judicial commissioner and continues to write the state case-law update for the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

**JOHN DOUGLAS PARKER** is president of the Montgomery County Bar Association.

## 2010

**HEATHER FLEMING** is staff attorney to the Mayor of the City of Clarksville.

**NICHOLAS J. PIEROTTI** has been appointed as assistant town attorney to serve as an assistant prosecutor in the Municipal Court of Collierville. Pierotti has a Memphis-based practice where he represents clients in all aspects of civil, family and probate law.

## 2011

**STACEY ANGELLO** is a Rule 31 mediator. She continues her work at the Nashville School of Law as the director of recruiting and alumni affairs and law library administrator.

**DAVID HALL** is a partner with the Nashville-based law firm Honeycutt, Doyle & Rich, PLLC. He focuses on family, criminal defense and personal injury law.

**ROBIN MOORE** has formed her own law firm with Michael Collins called Collins and Moore, PLLC in Carthage. Her practice focuses

on family law, personal injury and employment law. She also serves on her local school board.

**BRANDY SPURGEON** is a solo practitioner in Chattanooga. She focuses on criminal defense and employment discrimination.

## 2012

**KEEDA HAYNES** was appointed to the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Realignment Task Force. She also was profiled in a cover story of the Nashville Scene. She works as an assistant public defender for the Public Defender of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County.

**RYAN J. MOORE** was appointed to the McMinnville/Warren County Senior Center Board of Directors. He also serves as municipal judge for Morrison. He continues to practice law in McMinnville.

**JENNIFER STEIERT** joined the City Attorney's Office in Clarksville as a staff attorney in August.

**VINCE WILCOX** recently joined Trevecca Nazarene University as part-time faculty in the Music Business Department. He continues to serve as general manager for Belden Street Music and its online music division, DiscoverWorship.com.

## 2013

**JOANNA L. MCCRACKEN** formed a law practice with attorney Heather Piper called Piper McCracken, PLLC in 2016. She focuses on family law. She previously worked for Hall Booth Smith, P.C. as an insurance defense litigator.

**MARK PECKHAM** is in the Middle East with the Army in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. He plans to return to Tennessee in the fall of 2017.

**AMY SAVOIE** is an intellectual property advisor at Evelo Biosciences in Cambridge, Mass., a pharmaceutical start-up with a focus on therapeutic treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases.

**CHRISTOPHER SAVOIE** published "IOT, the Internet of Threats? Novel Liability Issues for Connected, Autonomous Vehicles and

Intelligent Transportation Systems" in the spring 2016 issue of the ABA's SciTech Lawyer. He serves on the ABA's Big Data Task Force and is the CEO of Kyulux, a technology company.

**BRITTANY STEVENS** was elected town court clerk for Smyrna. The Town Council appointed her as interim court clerk in February 2016 and Stevens won an election for the position in August.

**TRACEY WILLIAMS** is the director of paralegal studies at Roane State Community College in Harriman. She continues to practice law in Oak Ridge.

## 2014

Franklin-based attorney **CONNIE CHADWICK** and Nashville-based attorney **OWEN COMPTON** spoke to incoming students as part of the Nashville School of Law's orientation program.

**WAYNE SUTTER** served as an instructor in the new academic support class at the Nashville School of Law. The course, called Foundations for Success, began in August 2016. He serves as staff attorney for Senior Judge Paul Summers.

**NICHOLAS B. SNIDER** joined the Nashville-based law firm of Morgan & Akins, PLLC as an associate. He practices workers compensation insurance defense.

## 2015

**CATHYRN ARMISTEAD** works as an attorney with **BROCKLIN PARKS** (2000) at The Brocklin Law Firm in Nashville. She handles wills, trusts, estates and a variety of other legal matters.

**PHILIP CLARK** formed his own law firm in Nashville, focusing his efforts on criminal defense.

**RYAN DAVIS** formed his own Nashville-based law practice, Ryan C. Davis Law, PLLC, focusing on criminal defense and family law.

**KEN DYER** formed his own investigative firm, Dyer & Associates Investigative Services. He handles investigation matters for criminal defense attorneys.

**KIMBERLY FAYE**, senior law clerk to **HON. FRANK CLEMENT** (1979), serves as an adjunct professor of English at Motlow State Community College. She is a Board Member of the Lawyers' Association for Women and is on the *Nashville Bar Journal* Editorial Committee and Appellate Practice Committee.

**MARY RYAN HUTTO** works at the Murfreesboro-based law firm Bulloch, Fly, Hornsby & Evans, a general practice firm.

**ASHLEY KING** opened her own law practice in Oneida. She focuses on criminal defense and family law.

**JORDAN LAXTON** is practicing law in Murfreesboro with **WILL FRALEY** (2004). His practice focuses primarily on criminal law.

**ERIC LEHMAN** and **DENISE SANDIFAR** formed the Clarksville-based law firm Lehman, Sandifar & Associates, PLC. They focus on family law, wills, trusts and probate.

**DENISE LYNN MARTIN** joined the Nashville-based law firm Veazey & Tucker as an associate.

**KELLY MARTIN** works with a Department of Defense contractor, National Aerospace Solutions, LLC at Arnold Engineering Development Center. She is a subcontracting administrator for service-based contracts.

**JEREMIAH B. PIERCE** started his own law firm in Nashville, focusing on real estate and business law. He also is a managing partner of a real estate investment group, Certified Residential Appraiser.

## 2016

**JAMES W. EDWARDS** was profiled in *The Daily News Journal* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Edwards, a success in the insurance business, went back to law school in his 70s and earned his degree. He participated in the American Inns of Court Trial Advocacy workshop at the federal courthouse in Philadelphia.

**CARLOS LARA** was promoted to lieutenant in the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

## FACULTY UPDATES

**MABEL ARROYO** was selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of Best Lawyers in America for her work in immigration law. She also teaches Immigration Law at the Nashville School of Law.

**HON. DON ASH** was reappointed to another term as senior judge for the state of Tennessee. Judge Ash teaches Civil Procedure at the Nashville School of Law.

**DAN BEREXA** has been named to the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation. This distinction recognizes attorneys who have demonstrated dedication to the welfare of their communities and to the highest principles of the legal profession. Berexa is also serving as the 2016-2017 co-chair of the Steering Committee of the Nashville Bar Foundation Leadership Forum, a nine-month program designed to develop emerging leaders in the legal profession.

**HON. DAVID BRAGG** (1994) has added the 4th year course on Sales to his teaching duties. He also teaches the Secured Transaction class at Nashville School of Law.

**BILL HARBISON**, a partner with SRVH (Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison), was named the 2017 Best Lawyers in America's Lawyer of the Year.

**HON. MARSHALL DAVIDSON** has joined the Belmont Inn of Court. He also graduates in December from LEAD, a year-long leadership program conducted primarily by members of the Governor's cabinet and senior staff that stresses leadership skills and strategies for managers within state government.

**HARLAN DODSON** was named to the *Nashville Business Journal's* 2016 "Best of the Bar" for Estate Planning. He also was selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the fields of Corporate Law, Non-Profit/Charities Law, Commercial Transactions/UCC Law, and Litigation-Trusts and Estates.

**HON. TIM EASTER** (1989) has joined the Nashville School of Law faculty, teaching Introduction to Law and Legal Writing.

**SCOTT FIELDING**, an attorney at SRVH (Sherrard Roe Voigt & Harbison), is teaching the Property course at the Nashville School of

Law. Fielding was named to the 2016-2017 Best Lawyers in America for Real Estate.

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY GLENN FUNK** has expanded his teaching duties at the Nashville School of Law. He co-teaches criminal law with Laura Dykes and continues to teach a section of Introduction to Law and Legal Writing.

**CANDI HENRY** was selected to the 2016 Mid-South Rising Stars List, a designation limited to only 2.5 percent of attorneys in the Mid-South. She teaches Introduction to Law and Legal Writing.

**DAVID L. HUDSON, JR.** judged the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight championship bout between champion Deontay Wilder and challenger Chris Arreola in July 2016 in Birmingham, Ala.

**DEAN WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR.** was named by Nashville Mayor Megan Barry to the Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee, a 17-member group that will work to empower low- and middle-income Nashvillians towards financial inclusion. Dean Koch will chair the Financial Capability Subcommittee. Also, Dean Koch was named a trustee to the Cumberland University Board of Trust.

**CLARK SPODEN** received an AV Preeminent Top Rated Lawyer designation from *The American Lawyer* and was selected to the 2016 Mid-South Super Lawyers list. He also published an article in Law360 titled "FLSA Compliance and the Fluctuating Workweek Method." •



**HAVE UPDATES  
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[david.hudson@NSL.law](mailto:david.hudson@NSL.law)



Pictured above (left to right): John T. Rochford, III, Carol Rochford, Dean Koch, and Chairman Aubrey B. Harwell, Jr.

## ROCHFORDS HOST PATRONS RECEPTION

Carol and John (1974) Rochford, along with Dean William C. Koch, Jr. and Debby Koch, hosted the Nashville School of Law's Patron's Reception at Belle Meade Country Club in May.

Four of the five members of the NSL Board of Trustees attended the event, as well as many of the school's generous benefactors, staff members and many faculty members. Three of the 2016 Recognition Dinner honorees were also present: Brenda Hale (1977), Doug Hale (1978), and former U.S. attorney and NSL faculty member

Hal Hardin. Rochford applauded the vision and leadership of Dean Koch, quipping that he was in a different position vis-à-vis the dean from years ago, when Dean Koch was his tenant.

Aubrey Harwell, the Chair of the NSL Board of Trustees, also introduced the newest member of the Board of Trustees, U.S. District Court Judge Waverly Crenshaw, who thanked the Dean and the Board and proclaimed his support for the school and its mission. ●

### Lobbyist Accustomed to Excelling, continued

She was responsible for bringing the customer service headquarters of the ride-sharing company Lyft to Nashville and has worked with a variety of groups, including National Popular Vote, the Tennessee Telecommunications Association, the Real Estate Appraisal Institute and Zenefits.

She also frequently uses her legal training for projects like drafting wills, forming businesses and performing transactional work.

"I like being a contract lobbyist," she explained. "I love learning about different industries and professions. I also like being constantly challenged."

After becoming a mom, Adkins extended her entrepreneurial streak, developing a tennis racquet baby rattle that she sells online at TomBoyBaby.com.

Her accomplishments landed her in the Nashville Business Journal's 40 under 40. She is a 2016 Young Athena Professional Nominee. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Women's Political Collaborative of Tennessee and the Tennessee Lobbyist Association. In 2010, then-mayor Karl Dean appointed her to the Nashville Sports Authority, which serves to improve, repair, operate and maintain the city's professional sports facilities. She currently serves as chair of that body, which allows her to blend her backgrounds of sports and law.

"You get out of life what you put into it," added Adkins. ●

### Franklin-based Attorney Loves to Help His Clients with Immigration Issues, continued

"I love assisting in the process of getting good people into America," he explained. "I represent some of the finest entertainers and business people in the world and there is something pretty cool about seeing a client's latest song becoming a No. 1 hit. It's an area of law in which you can typically get a win/win for your clients and they really appreciate what you do for them."

His company is First Class Immigration Law and he hopes to expand his base from Franklin to several more locations and hire some associates. ●

## SCOTT FELSENTHAL: PREPARED BY NSL TO LEAD FAMILY BUSINESS THROUGH FOURTH GENERATION

**A**ttorney Scott Felsenthal (2009) uses his law degree and education from Nashville School of Law every day in working for his family business, Whitmor, an importer and distributor of home organization and storage products based in Southaven, Miss.

“I use my law degree and legal education in all I do,” said Felsenthal. As executive vice president, he focuses on employee relations and legal compliance for the fourth-generation company that was founded in 1946.

Felsenthal grew up in Memphis, near the family business that was, at the time, located across the Arkansas boarder in Earle. As a youth, Felsenthal excelled in tennis, earning a college scholarship to the University of Washington where he competed for three years. He transferred to the University of Memphis for his final year, where he also played collegiate tennis. Felsenthal excelled not only on the courts, but also in the classroom where he majored in criminology.

It was in his sophomore year of college that Felsenthal decided he wanted to go to law school.

“I knew that, no matter what profession I ultimately chose, my law school degree would be an invaluable asset,” he said. “I chose NSL because I wanted to have an opportunity to work during the day, as I thought it would be an incredible experience to learn about the law and work within the legal community at the same time.”

He enjoyed nearly all of his classes, but particularly enjoyed his Moot Court instruction from Tom Carlton and Jack Butler. He appreciated the real-world instruction offered by professors who worked as judges or practicing attorneys during the day. “The realistic approach the school takes to educating its students, versus a system of all theory, was incredible,” he said. “The teachers were all active attorneys or judges, which provides insight and teachings you just can’t get from a ‘typical’ law school.”



*Scott Felsenthal*

After graduating from NSL in 2009 and passing the bar exam, Felsenthal moved to Memphis and began working at Whitmor with his father and two uncles, along with a staff of approximately 90 employees.

“I enjoy working at a company where we feel like a family and know that the environment is very non-bureaucratic and flexible,” he said.

While he enjoys the work, he knows that he carries a significant level of responsibility both as executive vice president and as the future leader of the company.

“It’s incredibly rewarding to work with my father and two uncles,” he said. “I have learned so much from them all and now it is up to me to carry the company through the fourth generation and into the fifth generation. People will tell you most family companies fail in their third generation, but we keep building on our successes.” ●



## NSL ALUMNI

# Let's get together

### NSL ALUMNI EVENTS

For the second year in a row, the Nashville School of Law held alumni events in various cities across Tennessee. This year, the events were held in Murfreesboro, Franklin, Chattanooga, Jackson and Cookeville in between August and November.

The events afford an opportunity for NSL graduates to interact and reconnect with other alums as well as faculty members and NSL staff. Brenda and Doug Hale once again hosted one of the events at their home in Franklin.

“Doug and I have very much enjoyed hosting the alumni gatherings in Williamson County the past two years,” said Brenda. “We feel it is important for our alumni to know each other and keep in touch because we know that we can always rely on a fellow NSL graduate! Our school will remain strong as long as our graduates continue to participate and do everything they can to further its mission. We all have that responsibility.”

This year marked the first time that events were held in Chattanooga and Jackson. Many of the NSL grads were pleased with having an event in their area.

“I think it’s excellent that the school is organizing alumni events around the state,” said Charli Wyatt, a Dunlap native. “There are plenty of alumni among the bench and bar in the Chattanooga area and, in my experience, they are well respected as well as exceptionally collegial and supportive.”

Bylinda Bell echoed similar sentiments on the Chattanooga event.



“The event in Chattanooga was particularly encouraging because, not only did I get to spend time with friends from school, but I also met several attorneys that practice in Chattanooga and the surrounding areas that are fellow alum,” said Bell. “I will always be grateful for NSL and the opportunities that I’ve been afforded through my education there.” ●

*Pictured top (left to right): Jimmy Richardson (2013) and Dean Koch*

*Pictured left: April Odom (2015)*

*Pictured above (left to right): Doug Thibodeaux (2015) and Michelle Blaylock-Houser (2006)*





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### *Dates to Remember:*

December 10<sup>th</sup>

Henry Term Graduation

Class of 2016

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May 27<sup>th</sup>

Cooper Term Graduation

Class of 2017

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June 9<sup>th</sup>

2017 Recognition Dinner

Renaissance Nashville Hotel