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For Immediate Release

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The University of Memphis Law Review is pleased to announce that Virginia Nesbitt has secured a clerkship with the Honorable H. Emory Widener, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Nesbitt is a third-year law student at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and serves as an Articles Editor for the Law Review.

Federal clerkships are considered the “Olympic Gold Medal of clerkships,” according to Charles DeWitt III, Assistant Dean for Career and Alumni Services at the law school. DeWitt said Nesbitt is one of a select few UofM graduates that he can remember who has clerked for a federal appeals judge.

“It’s a great, great honor,” he said. “It’s invaluable for those who want to teach law, as well.”

As a clerk, Nesbitt will work with another temporary clerk and a permanent clerk at the judge’s office in Abingdon, Va. The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals covers Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia.

The job will be a return to familiar territory for Nesbitt, a native of Bristol, Tenn., who earned a bachelor of arts in history from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va.

Nesbitt said she went to law school because the law runs in her family.

“My dad’s a lawyer, so I’ve always been around it,” she said. As a young girl, she said her father would present her with legal hypotheticals and ask her how she thought they should be resolved.

Nesbitt’s husband, Tom, is also a law student at The UofM and serves as the Symposium Editor on the Law Review. Nesbitt said she credits her husband with helping her land the prestigious position.

“Tom went online to the federal judicial clerkship database and told me about the deadline” she said. Unlike many judges who interview in the fall, Judge Widener conducted his interviews in May. Nesbitt said the process moved quickly.

“I interviewed in May right after exams,” she said. “He called my references right after the interview and his secretary called the next day and offered me the job.”

Nesbitt said law students considering applying for a clerkship should know that it’s different from applying for a job with a law firm. Because the judge is doing the hiring, she said networking and plain good luck can really help.

“It’s about making personal connections with a judge,” she said.

After her clerkship ends in 2007, Nesbitt said the couple will probably stay in the Virginia/Fourth Circuit area.

She said, “a lot of [Judge Widener’s] clerks end up in D.C.”

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