



PRESS RELEASE
From the Tennessee Bar Association

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**University of Memphis Law Student Named
Law Student Volunteer of the Year**
Award to be presented to Betsy Prendergast at Capitol ceremony

NASHVILLE, Jan. 13, 2006 — University of Memphis law student Betsy Prendergast will receive the 2006 “Law Student Volunteer of the Year Award” at the Tennessee Bar Association’s annual public service luncheon on Saturday, Jan. 14, at noon in the Tennessee State Capitol. Shelby County Mayor A C Wharton Jr. will give the luncheon’s keynote address.

As a first year law student, Prendergast began volunteering with the Memphis Community Legal Center; first as an administrative assistant and then as a legal researcher and member of the board. Her passion for public service also led her to join the law school’s Public Action Law Society, where for two years she organized the annual spring volunteer fair – a key event for connecting law students with pro bono agencies – and boosted overall participation in pro bono activities among student volunteers. Through the school’s Elder Law Clinic, Prendergast has provided legal services to the elderly and developed educational programs to help senior citizens understand a new state law governing health care decisions.

Prendergast says of her experience, “I find it incredibly rewarding work to come home feeling I have helped somebody.” After meeting many attorneys who are dedicated to public service work, she says she is inspired to continue a career in public service law.

The Law Student Volunteer of the Year Award is given annually to a Tennessee law school student who has performed outstanding volunteer service by working with an organization that provides legal representation to the indigent. Award recipients are nominated by the TBA Access to Justice Committee and approved by the Board of Governors.

The Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) is the largest professional association in Tennessee with about 9,000 members. Founded in 1881, the TBA provides opportunities for continuing legal education, professional development and public service. The TBA's dedication to serving the state's legal community is evidenced by its membership roll, which represents the entire

spectrum of legal practice: plaintiff and defense lawyers, corporate counsel, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, government lawyers and legal services attorneys.

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