



Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law E-Newsletter September 14, 2009

From the Dean:

Our final semester in the Central Avenue law building is underway.

On August 13, we welcomed the 143 members of the Class of 2012. In addition to new students, we welcomed two new full-time professors (including a new Legal Methods Director) and one full-time visiting clinical professor. We are pleased and proud to note the promotion of Donna Harkness (to Professor of Clinical Law) and Lee Harris (to Associate Professor of Law). After completing eight years as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Professor Barbara Kritchevsky has become the law school's first Director of Advocacy, with David Romantz assuming the role of Associate Dean.

Progress is on schedule at the new law building in the historic Post Office and Custom House at 1 North Front Street. We anticipate the building will open for classes on Monday, January 11, 2010. The following Saturday, January 16, will be marked by an elegant opening Gala celebration organized by the Law Alumni Association.

The staff (both law school and University) and the faculty are actively planning the move to the new law building, a move that will involve approximately 420 students, 50 faculty and staff, and 250,000 books and microform volumes. We will move into a building with new furniture, including new furniture in the classrooms and seminar rooms, the Law Library, and the student lounge. Next stop—Downtown!

Please enjoy learning about our students' accomplishments, the faculty's scholarship and service involvement, the continuing

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For Your Calendar

Sept 17—Adjunct Reception

Sept 28-Oct 1—East TN

Dean's Tour (info in E-News)

**Oct 13—Scholarship
Luncheon**

**Nov 3—Judicial Reception
(by invitation)**

Jan 16, 2010 --Gala

**Feb 19, 2010—Law Review
Symposium**

generosity of alumni and friends of the law school, and the many successes of our alumni.

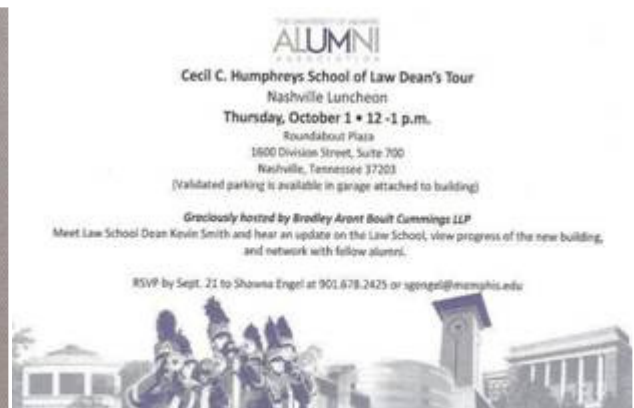
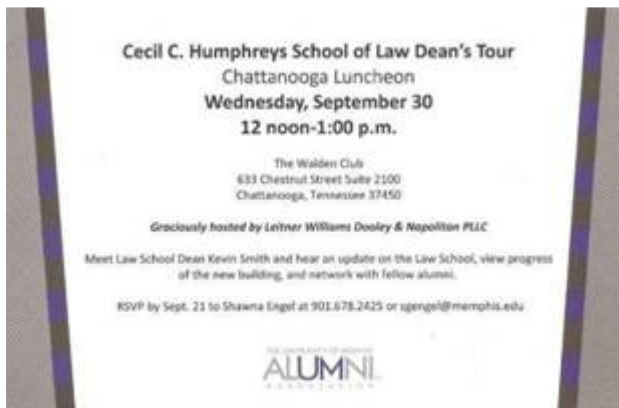
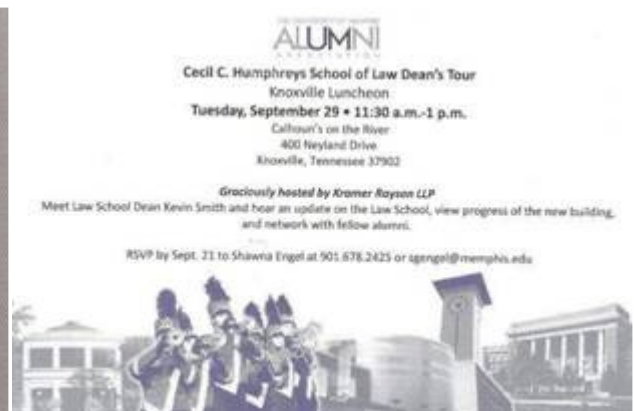
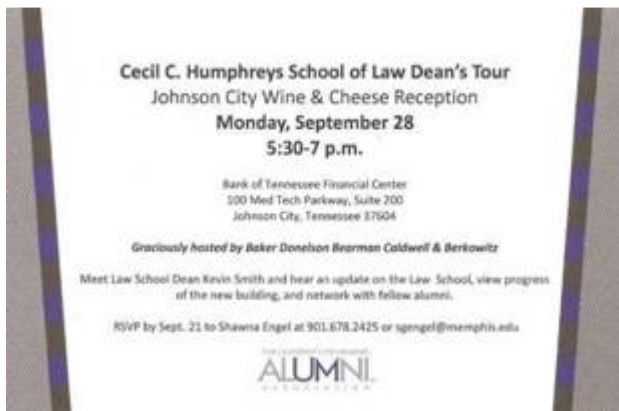
Sincerely,

Kevin H. Smith
Dean and Thomas B. Preston Professor of Law

Law School News

East Tennessee Dean's Tour

Dean Kevin H. Smith is touring the state to share an update on the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Events sponsored by various law firms will be held in **Johnson City, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville**. (Jackson event to be determined.) Please view the invitations below and join us in a city near you to hear how you can help the law school with recruiting and placement. Traveling to one of the cities? Join us and network with alumni. For more detail, please contact [Shawna Engel](mailto:sgengel@memphis.edu) or click on one of the invitations below.



ABA Partnership Award

The Memphis Bar Association's High School Summer Law Internship Program was selected to receive the 2009 ABA Partnership Award. The award was presented July 31 in Chicago at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives and the National Conference of Bar Foundations. Yolanda Ingram and Sue Ann McClellan, assistant deans of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, were instrumental in planning and organizing the events for the High School Summer Law Internship Program. The events included professionalism and business etiquette workshops and undergraduate and law school admissions seminars presented at the Law School.

The Law School also was the location for the interviews during the selection process, as well as serving as a placement site for an intern. Ingram and McClellan, along with other members of the Diversity Committee, helped welcome the participants at the opening ceremony. The primary goal of the program was to introduce diverse high school students to the real practice of law and encourage them to pursue a career in law.

"It is indeed an honor to be recognized at a national level for helping local minority high school students take a step toward fulfilling their dreams and goals of one day becoming a lawyer," said Ingram. "It was truly rewarding to be a part of a phenomenal program that gives back to the Memphis community and to really make a difference in the lives of the high school interns who participated."

Registrar Named

Please join congratulate Pat Crowell (JD 1987) on her selection as permanent Registrar. Pat was selected after an advertised search in which more than 15 applications were received. Pat began her new role May 13.

Memphis Bar Fellow

Yolanda Ingram (pictured at right) of the University of Memphis' Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law has been named a Fellow of the Memphis Bar Foundation. Ingram serves as the school's Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Director of the Academic Support Program, and Director of the Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law, the state's only access and diversity summer law program. Additionally, she is an adjunct faculty member in the paralegal studies program and the freshman orientation program.



Best Value Law School

The National Jurist has released its ranking of the Best Value Law Schools in the September 2009 issue. The magazine identified 65 law schools that carry a low price tag and are able to prepare their students incredibly well for today's competitive job market. The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law ranked 15th in this year's list.

Law School Development

Countdown to Downtown—Four months to go

View the Donors to the Campaign

We are very close to attaining \$12 million in gifts and pledges--- \$11, 980,000. Thank you to alumni, friends, law firms, corporations and foundations who supported this campaign. Six million dollars were used to relocate the postal services from Front Street and the remaining \$6 million will improve the law school endowment specifically used for student scholarships, faculty professorships, and programmatic initiatives. The Campaign [donors to date](#) are listed on the website. There is still time to make your campaign gift at any level. Naming opportunities are still available. Please visit the site and help [Countdown to Downtown](#) today. Please contact [Shawna Engel](#) or call 901-678-2425 if you have any questions.



One Front Street Construction Update

View the most recent [construction photos](#) from August 2009...there has been an amazing progress in the and transformation of a historic building. Work at this stage of construction is mostly hanging lighting fixtures, installing cabinetry, and other finishing work.

Alumni Giving

Each and every gift makes a difference, no matter what the amount. Last fiscal year, we had 504 law school alumni make a gift to the law school. If each alumnus/a made a gift at any level, we could ensure that excellence in legal education continues at the law school despite declining state assistance. Please consider making your gift today. Additionally, if your law firm has three or more Memphis law school graduates, please consider participating in the law firm annual giving program. Please contact [Kelly Erb](#) for more information.

[Online](#)

Send a check designating the Cecil C Humphreys School of Law in the memo line.

Mail your gift to:

Department 238

The U of M Foundation

P.O. Box 1000

Memphis, TN 38148-0001

Student News

2009 Entering Class & Quick Facts

143 Students Matriculated—300 Students Admitted—951 Applications Received

Median LSAT/GPA 156/3.42

43% Women; 57% Men; 14% Minority Enrollment

48 Undergraduate Institutions

8% Hold Graduate Degrees
421 Total Student Body Enrollment
Tuition & Fees---\$13,710 Resident; \$35,582 Non-Resident

U of M Student Wins Environmental Law Writing Competition

A University of Memphis law student took first place in the Jon E. Hastings Memorial Award Writing Competition sponsored by the Environmental Law Section of the Tennessee Bar Association. Shannon Wiley won for her essay “Lurking in the Water: Withholding Attorneys’ Fees as a Threat to Effective Enforcement of the Clean Water Act.”

The Hastings contest recognizes outstanding legal writing on a topic of Tennessee or federal environmental law.

Wiley was encouraged to enter the contest by Amy Moorman, an assistant professor in the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and by J. Vincent Perryman, an attorney for whom Wiley worked during the academic year. “I’m thrilled to have won this competition,” she said. “The topic touches on two of my favorite subjects – clean water and statutory attorneys’ fees awards.”

A resident of Bartlett, Wiley has four children – Loki, Imani, Sky, and Bjarka. She is expected to graduate in 2010.

Law Clinic Corner

Child and Family Litigation Clinic

Two May 2009 law school graduates and one December 2009 law school graduate deserve special recognition for their continued pro bono representation of child clients in the Clinic, long after they completed their clinical experience. While studying for the Bar, John Stevenson (who took the Clinic in Fall 2008) represented two young children in a termination of parental rights proceeding in which the father’s rights were terminated. He also completed his representation of a four-year-old placed with his grandmother. The Court had asked Mr. Stevenson to monitor the child for 90 days to assure his safety.

Maria Estes (who took the Clinic in Fall 2008) completed her representation of a 15-year-old dependent young man with multiple problems. Maria doggedly pursued TennCare benefits, Adoption Assistance, and a suitable placement for the child and negotiated an Agreed Order placing custody in a non-relative in Nashville. The Court signed her Agreed Order the day she took the Bar exam.

Reginald Shelton, who will graduate in December, was given the opportunity to litigate approximately four cases with Professor Chris Zawisza over the summer months. This opportunity, while not called a post-clinic fellowship, served as exactly that—the chance for Mr. Shelton to hone his investigatory and trial skills. One of his cases necessitated a four-hour trial in which two sets of relatives competed for custody of an eight-year-old girl. Another case which Mr. Shelton prepared for trial involved a sibling group of three children in which serious allegations of physical abuse and neglect were made. Mr. Shelton litigated a Motion to Suspend Visitation in the case, in addition to preparing for the adjudicatory hearing. The Motion hearing required him to qualify a witness as an expert and put on proof of psychological harm to the children.

Professor Chris Zawisza has been named to the Executive Council of the Tennessee Bar Association Juvenile and Children’s Law Section.

Professor Danny Schaffzin has joined the University of Memphis Legal Clinic as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Clinical Law. Beginning in the Spring 2010 semester, Professor Schaffzin will re-introduce and teach the Civil Litigation Clinic. This fall, Professor Schaffzin will be assisting in the instruction of the Child and Family Litigation Clinic directed and taught by Professor Christina Zawisza. Professor Schaffzin comes to the University of Memphis Law School from the University of North Dakota Law School, where he served from 2007 to 2009 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Law in the school's Housing and Employment Litigation Clinic, which he developed with UND Professor Margaret Moore Jackson. While at the University of North Dakota, Professor Schaffzin also coached with Kate Schaffzin the school's National Trial Team, which in 2008 and 2009 won the Regional Championship and advanced as National Finalists in the National Trial Competition sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association. Professor Schaffzin looks forward to coaching with Kate Schaffzin the University of Memphis Trial Team to similar successes.

Faculty Updates

Welcome New Faculty

Visiting Assistant Professor of Clinical Law [Daniel Schaffzin](#)

Teaching interests: Clinical Legal Education, Trial Advocacy.

Education: B.A., Temple University, Journalism (magna cum laude), 1996; J.D., Temple University, 2000 (cum laude).

Experience: Visiting Assistant Professor of Clinical Law, University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (present); Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, University of North Dakota School of Law (2007-2009); Counsel, GlaxoSmithKline (2005-2007); Associate, Pepper Hamilton LLP (2000-2005).

Bar Admissions: Tennessee (pending), Pennsylvania, New Jersey, North Dakota.

Assistant Professor of Law [Katharine Traylor Schaffzin](#)

Teaching Interests: Evidence, Civil Procedure, Professional Responsibility, and Trial Advocacy.

Education: B.A., LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA; J.D., Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA; LL.M., Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA;

Experience: Assistant Professor of Law, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, University of Memphis (present); Assistant Professor of Law, University of North Dakota School of Law (2006-2009); Abraham L. Freedman Fellow & Lecturer in Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law (2004-2006); Judicial Law Clerk, Honorable James Knoll Gardner, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (2003-2004); Associate, Mazur, Carp & Rubin, P.C., New York, NY (2002-2003); Associate, Pepper Hamilton, LLP, Philadelphia, PA (2000-2002).

Admitted: New York (inactive); New Jersey; PA (inactive); United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Director of Legal Methods and Assistant Professor of Law [Jodi Wilson](#)

Teaching Interests: Legal Methods, Legal Argument, Advocacy.

Education: B.A., University of Arkansas, with honors; J.D., Washington University, with honors.

Experience: Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Legal Methods, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

(2009-present); Adjunct Professor of Legal Methods, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (2007-2009); Associate, Bass, Berry & Sims, PLC (2007-2009); Associate, Tate, Lazarini, Brady & Davis, PLC (2005-2007); Associate, Cates, Kurowski, Bailey & Sultz LLC (2003-2005); Associate, Carr, Korein, Tilery, Kunin, Montroy, Cates, Katz & Glass, LLC (and successor firms) (2001-2003).

Admitted: Tennessee; Illinois; Missouri; U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee; U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Associate Dean and Professor David Romantz has published the second edition of his co-authored book *Legal Analysis: The Fundamental Skill* (Carolina Academic Press 2009).

Professor Lawrence Pivnick has published a new reference book titled *General Sessions Court Practice In Tennessee: Bringing and Defending Civil Lawsuits* (2009).

Professor Lee Harris' article, *The Quiet Revolutionary: The Absence of Retail Investors from Contested Corporate Elections*, has been accepted for publication in the *Columbia Business Law Review*, vol. 2009.

Professor Steven Mulroy delivered two presentations during the summer. On June 30, he spoke at a national voting rights conference in Washington, D.C., and on July 9, he addressed the Workshop for Bankruptcy Judges, sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center, in Chicago.

Associate Dean and Professor David Romantz's essay, *The Embedded Rule*, will be published in *The Second Draft*, vol. 23, issue 1, in Fall 2009. *The Second Draft* is a publication of the Legal Writing Institute.

Professor and Herff Chair Andrew J. McClurg has contributed a story for the annual *Law Stories* issue published by the University of Kansas City at *Missouri Law Review*. The theme for this year's issue is "1L stories." Scott Turow, the author of *ONE L*, will write an introduction for the issue.

Professor Ralph C. Brashier's article, *Policy, Perspective, and Proxy Will*, has been accepted for publication by the *South Carolina Law Review*. It will appear in book 1 of volume 61.

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Alumni Chapter News

Law Alumni Board

Richard Carter has been chosen president of the Alumni Chapter of the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. A 1980 law graduate, Carter is Director and Shareholder of the Memphis law firm Martin, Tate, Morrow and Marston.



Four new alumni board members, pictured left to right below, have also been named: James "Jimmy" Dickey (B.A. '80, M.B.A./J.D. '83) of The Marston Group; Mitch Moskowitz (J.D. '92) of Shea, King and Moskowitz; Todd Presnell (J.D. '95) of Miller and Martin in Nashville; and John Winters (J.D. '93) of Kramer Rayson in Knoxville.



Board members serve a three-year term, while officers serve for one year. The Law Alumni Board advises the membership of the law alumni group and helps support the law school and the U of M Alumni Association.

Law Alumni Gala

The Law Alumni Chapter and the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law would like you to Save the Date for the evening of Saturday, January 16, 2010, for the Downtown Law School Grand Opening Gala. Contact Alumni Coordinator [Chelsea Dubey](#) for more information concerning sponsorships and/or ticket packages. For general information, check out the [Law Gala](#) website. Please thank our generous sponsors below. Methodist Le Bonheur recently signed on as a sponsor—logo not yet received):



THE MARSTON GROUP
insight beyond the numbers

THE WEST
MEMPHIS
Beale Street

The University's Official Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony will be held on a separate occasion.

Reunion Changes for 2009 and 2010

For those who graduated with years ending in 4, 9, 5 and 0, your reunions are coming up. 2009 and 2010 reunions will be held in conjunction with the Grand Opening Gala in January 2010. Stay tuned for more information as we approach this once-in-a-lifetime event! Class agents for these years are needed so please email [Chelsea Dubey](#) if you are interested. Also, plans are underway for a photographer to take class photos at the law gala at a pre-determined location. Stay tuned to the [Law Gala](#) website for details.

Class of 2000 Reunion Information

Caroline Critchfield Hunter (caroline_c_hunter@yahoo.com) and Sarah Henry (sarah37206@yahoo.com) are planning the Class of 2000 reunion. The current plan is to have a get-together before the gala and a post-gala gathering. For more information, please contact Caroline and/or Sarah.

For detailed class notes please select below.

Recent Passings
1960s and 1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s

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