

From the Dean



Good wishes from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

The academic year is winding down, with Graduation set for Sunday, May 10, at 3 p.m. The Honorable Bernice Donald is scheduled to be the commencement speaker.

Although the academic year may soon be ending, the summer will be spent in active planning for the move to the downtown law building. Construction continues on schedule, with classes slated to begin in January 2010.

The year has been both incredibly busy and tremendously productive. Please enjoy reading about the varied activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

Sincerely,

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

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For Your Calendar

May 2--Bench Bar Reception
May 10-Commencement
August—Farewell to Law School CLE
November—Judicial Reception
January 16, 2010 --Gala

Law School News



Faculty/Staff Retirement Party

The law school faculty and staff bid farewell to retirees pictured at right, Dan Wanat, Ruth McCormick, Nick White, June Entman, and Nancy Barron, (Jim Smoot was not able to attend) at an event in their honor in March of this year. The retirees were introduced by peers or friends and were given an opportunity to share their thoughts about the law school, teaching and retirement. Our best to them as they leave in retirement.

Administration Changes

Professor David Romantz will become Associate Dean for Academic Affairs starting in July 2009. Associate Dean Barbara Kritchevsky will become the Director of Advocacy.

New Scholar Exchange Program

Professor Bill Sjostrom from Salmon P. Chase Law School at Northern Kentucky University visited the law school as part of a new scholar-exchange program, in which Memphis partners with other law schools to have faculty members from both schools present reciprocal colloquia regarding their current research. In February, University of Memphis Professor Lee Harris visited Northern Kentucky to present his work-in-progress about shareholder elections. This March, Professor Bill Sjostrom visited the law school and presented "The AIG Bailout" to more than 70 students and faculty.



Bench-Bar Event--May 2nd

For those attending the [Bench-Bar Conference](#) in Destin, Florida, make plans to stop by Dean Kevin Smith's condo (located in the Luau building) on Saturday evening at 6:00 pm for a glass of wine before visiting your favorite Destin restaurant. All conference attendees are invited to attend. More details will be in your conference packets.

Diversity Workshop

The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law hosted an event on Friday March 6th geared toward diversifying the law school program. The Diversity Outreach Program is a daylong event where minority high school students have the opportunity to learn more about entering the law program. This is the program's seventh year, and there were 200 people who attended the seminar. Students who attended the seminar learned about undergraduate admissions and the summer internship program sponsored by the Memphis Bar Association. Attendees met with the dean of admissions, current law students and practicing lawyers. Students also got an up close and personal experience by attending a mock law class. The event concluded with a presentation by the Black Law Student Association's mock trial team. Yolanda Ingram, assistant dean for student affairs and director of the Tennessee Institute for Pre-Law, said the goal of the event is to increase awareness about the admissions process and to inform students on the importance of having a great transcript.

A special thanks to the alumni who helped with the program: Judge Otis Higgs, Jr. (67), Gina Higgins (84), Kim Sims (85), Linda Mathis (87), Rhynette Hurd (91), Sherry Brooks (92), Freeman Foster (03), Chris Jones (03), Kendra Tidwell (06), David McKinney (07), Andre Mathis (07), and Zayid Saleem (07).

Dean Emeritus Fred Davis

Dean Fred B. Davis, 82, died peacefully on Monday, March 23rd, after a brief illness. Born August 21,

1926, Fred is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary Saecker Davis, four children, and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother, Anne Francis Loomis, and his father, Clifford Howard Davis. Mr. Davis served as the dean and professor of law at Memphis State University from 1987-1992 and then on the faculty until his retirement in 2002. Prior to Memphis State, Professor Davis served as dean of law at the University of Dayton from 1981-1986, and served as a professor of law at University of Missouri School of Law and other law schools. Mr. Davis received a BA from Yale University 1947, a JD from Cornell University 1953, and an LLM from the University of Wellington 1955.

Law School Development

Campaign Update

View the Donors to the Campaign Online Now

Thank you to those alumni, friends, law firms, corporations and foundations who believed in the need for this campaign and stepped forward to pledge/gift over \$11.6 million dollars to date for the benefit of the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. Six million was 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 now listed on the website. Please visit the site and help Countdown to Downtown today.



One North Front Street Construction Update

While you are visiting the site, view the most recent [construction photos](#) from April 2009...it is an amazing progress and transformation of a historic building. If you, your law firm, or business are interested in hearing about the opportunity to put your name on a room in this magnificent building, please contact [Shawna Engel](#) or call 901-678-2425. Gifts to the campaign increase the law school endowment which provides scholarship/awards for deserving students and professorships for deserving professors.

Alumni Giving

Have you used your law degree or dealt with a legal issue recently? If so, then you know the importance of legal education, and we need your participation in our giving efforts. Each and every gift makes a difference, no matter what the amount. Last fiscal year, we had 644 out of 5500 law school alumni make a gift to the law school. If each alumnus/a made a gift, we can 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 3 or more Memphis law school graduates, please participate 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

Competitions

The National Moot Court team (Blake Neill, LaKeisha Sisco-Beck and Brice Timmons) reached the regional final round in New Orleans and had the second place brief in the region. That earned them a trip to the National finals in NYC in February as one of the top 28 teams in the country (out of about 175). Unfortunately, they did not advance out of the preliminary rounds in NY. The team was coached by Barbara Kritchevsky.

The ABA-NAAC team (Adam Ragan, Jonathan Bettis, Jasmine McMackins) competed in the Brooklyn regional. They advanced to the Sweet 16 (out of about 31 teams) but lost a close round to St. John's. The team was coached by Barbara Kritchevsky.

The Wagner team (Matthew Gabriel, Bill Roach, Josh Sudbury) reached the Sweet 16 of that competition (out of about 35 or 40). The team was coached by Tim Perkins (05).

The Fredrick Douglass team (Amanda Ray and Gabrielle Lewis) participated in competition but they did not advance. The team was coached by Andre Mathis (07).

Law Clinic Corner

The Memphis Law School Clinical Program was featured in the most recent issue of *Memphis Lawyer Magazine*, highlighting the collaboration between the legal clinics and Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS).

The University of Memphis Clinical Program will be honored during the Memphis Bar Association Law Week Reception to be held on Thursday, April 23, 2009, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at Burch Porter & Johnson. During the reception, Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS) will recognize the partnership with the law school's Clinical Program, a relationship that has spanned nearly two decades.

Professor Christina Zawisza's article, "Reader Travelogue: Openness of Europe makes for joyful 'roots' journey" appeared in the Sunday, April 5, 2009 edition of *The Commercial Appeal*. Professors Zawisza and Harkness, along with their respective clinic students, participated in the statewide public service day on Saturday, April 4, 2009, as part of the [Tennessee Bar Association's 4ALL campaign](#). Professor Zawisza participated in the free legal clinic on Juvenile Court Dependency and Delinquency and presented a Dependency & Neglect Seminar, followed by individual consultations.

Professor Harkness and her Elder Law Clinic students traveled to the Ave Maria Assisted Living Facility. Student attorneys Lea Mullins and Gayra Jones conducted a 30-minute presentation on the health care decision-making options available under the Tennessee Health Care Decisions Act. Professor Harkness

and her students also assisted Ave Maria residents in executing advanced healthcare directives.

Professor Zawisza participated in the planning committee responsible for bringing Professor David B. Wexler on campus to present "Effective Representation for the 21st Century: Therapeutic Jurisprudence in Civil and Criminal Practice" at the University of Memphis Fogelman Center on April 7, 2009. Professor Zawisza led a breakout session on Civil Practice.

Professor Lainez traveled to Nashville on February 18, 2009, to serve as the moderator for the University of Memphis Papasan Public Policy Institute presentation before the state legislature, entitled "The Impact of Immigration: How Will Tennessee Address the Challenge?"

Professor Lainez's article "Measure for Measure: The Uneasy Marriage of Tax Policy and Immigration Reform" appears in the April issue of *Taxes - The Tax Magazine* published by CCH.

On April 24, 2009, Professor Lainez will present "Practice & Procedure before the IRS - Examinations, Assessments and Appeals" at the Memphis Bar Association, attendees will be eligible to receive 4 hours of CLE credit.

Faculty Updates

Associate Dean and Professor **Barbara Kritchevsky's** article, "Whose Idea Was It? Why Violations of State Laws Enacted Pursuant to Federal Mandates Should Not be Negligence Per Se", will be published in the third issue of the Spring 2009 volume of the WISCONSIN LAW REVIEW.

Professor Daniel E. Wanat's article, "Copyright Law: Infringement of Musical Works and the Appropriateness of Summary Judgment Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 56 (c)", will appear in Volume 39 of the UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS LAW REVIEW (Spring 2009).

The second edition of **Professor David S. Romantz's** widely used book, LEGAL ANALYSIS: THE FUNDAMENTAL SKILL (Carolina Academic Press), will be forthcoming in 2009.

Professor Janet L. Richards is the author of two forthcoming books: MASTERING FAMILY LAW and PRACTICAL GLOBAL FAMILY LAW: U.S., CHINA, AND ITALY. Both books will be published in 2009 by the Carolina Academic Press. Professor Richards also recently published the third edition of her book, RICHARDS ON TENNESSEE FAMILY LAW.

Professor and Herff Chair Andrew J. McClurg published his book, 1L OF A RIDE: A WELL-TRAVELED PROFESSOR'S ROADMAP TO SUCCESS IN THE FIRST-YEAR OF LAW SCHOOL (Thomson West 2009).

Professor Lee A. Harris's book, MASTERING CORPORATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTITIES (Carolina Academic Press 2009), recently came out. Professor Lee A. Harris visited the Northern Kentucky University School of Law (Feb. 13, 2009) and Vanderbilt School of Law (March 23, 2009) to present his paper, "The Quiet Revolutionary: The Absence of Retail Investors in Corporate Elections". His trip to N. Ky. U. was part of the law school's new Scholar-Exchange Program in which the school of law partners with other law schools to have faculty members from both schools present reciprocal colloquia

regarding their current research.

Assistant Dean Yolanda Ingram appeared as part of a panel discussion on “Fading Faces: The Importance of Pipeline Programs in Legal Education” at the Third Annual Meeting of Law School Diversity Professionals. The meeting was held March 23–24 and was hosted by William Mitchell College of Law, Hamline University School of Law, and University of St. Thomas School of Law.

Professor Steven J. Mulroy wrote a Guest Column in the *Commercial Appeal* (Mar. 16, 2009) entitled “Living Wage Shouldn't Be Allowed to Die”.

In December 2008, **Professor Daniel Kiel** was featured as a panelist on Race and Education at a forum presented by the Memphis Urban League and NewPath.

Professor Larry Pivnick's draft of e-discovery amendments to the 2009 Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure was adopted without substantive (non-clerical/format) change by the Tennessee Supreme Court and was approved by the Tennessee Legislature. Further, the 2009 edition of TENNESSEE CIRCUIT COURT PRACTICE (Thomson/Reuters/West) was published in January 2009.

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law Alumni Chapter News

Law Alumni Board

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. Formal invitations and ticket information will be forthcoming. The University's Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held on a separate occasion.



Legacy Lunch

For the second year, the law school and the Law Alumni Chapter co-sponsored a lunch to recognize first-year law school students who have a parent or parents who are alumni of the Memphis Law School. In this class alone there are 18 students with relatives who are alumni of the law school.

Pictured are Sam Blaiss (85) and his daughter, Emily Blaiss (1L).

Class 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.

CLE Information

A Farewell to the Law School will be held in August 2009. Actual date and topic to be determined, so please stay tuned.

For detailed class notes please select below.

Recent Passings

1960s and 1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

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