Law School Accomplishments

Updated August 2, 2018

- **Increased Enrollment:** On August 13, the Law School will welcome its largest first-year class since 2011 – 130 students.

- **IMPROVED US News Ranking:** US News ranking improved by 3 positions from 2018 and 13 positions from 2017, with Law School rising to 137, its highest ranking ever.

- **Increase in Graduate Employment Rates:** Increase in 10-month employment rate of graduates to 90% (for Class of 2016) from 86% (for Class of 2015) and 80% (for Class of 2014), with rate for core jobs (full-time, long-term, bar-passage required or preferred) increasing to 78% (for the Class of 2016) from 68% (for Class of 2015) and 62% (for Class of 2014). National ranking in later category improved to 73 (for Class of 2016) from 120 (for Class of 2015) and 152 (for Class of 2014).

- **Improved Bar Passage Since 2014 low:** Continued improvement in bar passage rates since low of 2014 (71.93%), with first-time takers passing the Tennessee Bar Examination at a rate of 81.11% for calendar year 2017, as compared with a rate 76.40% for calendar year 2016, and 74.74% for calendar year 2015. The rate for calendar year 2017 exceeded the state average rate for first-time takers by 2.28%.

- **Increased Applications:** Continued growth in applications. In 2018, we received 741 applications, up 15% from 2017 (643), up 26% from 2016 (589), and up 33% from 2015 (556). Growth in out-of-state applications has been especially strong with 428 applications to date, up 27% from 2017 (338), up 53% from 2016 (280), and up 116% from 2015 (198).

- **Diversity of Class:** Continued growth in percentage of racially and ethnically diverse students in 1L class, with diverse students comprising 31% of the 1L class for 2017-2018, as compared with 20% for 2016-2017, 26% for 2015-2016, 31% for 2014-2015, and 22% for 2013-2014. For the previous five-year period (2008-2013), the percentage of racially and ethnically diverse students ranged from 10% to 15%.

- **Continued Success of Experiential Learning/Community Partnership Programs:**
  
  **Neighborhood Preservation Clinic:** Continuation and expansion of Neighborhood Preservation Clinic, with enhanced funding from the City of Memphis. City funding increased from $75,000 per year for 2016 and 2017 to $150,000 per year for 2018 and 2019, permitting clinic to (a) replace its post-graduate fellow with a staff attorney and (b) fund a new position for a paralegal. Enhanced staffing will permit increased caseload and wider range of experiences for students.

  **Medical Legal Partnership:** Continued success and growth of Medical Legal Partnership with Methodist Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and Memphis Area
Legal Services with successful hiring of the clinic’s first permanent, full-time, tenure track director for 2018-2019. The MLP recently surpassed 1000 referrals in just its first three years.

- **Continued Strength and Growth of Institute for Health Law and Policy:** Continued growth and expansion of the Law School’s Institute for Health Law & Policy (iHeLP). iHeLP has continued to expand its policy lab and related programs, providing scholarships and fellowships for students, opportunities for faculty experts, and funding for positions at the Law School, including positions supporting our Medical Legal Partnership (MLP). iHeLP funding successes for 2017-2018 include the receipt of approximately $430,000 in FY18 funding from the Urban Child Institute to support the Policy Lab and MLP.

- **Transformation to Full-Time Legal Methods Program:** Completion of transformation of Legal Methods Program, staffed by three full-time clinical professors, from adjunct-based model used by less than 10% of accredited law schools.

- **MLK50 Symposium:** Organization, in cooperation with the National Civil Rights Museum (NCRM), of major two-day symposium commemorating the work of Dr. King on the 50th anniversary of his assassination. Both the Symposium and the Keynote Luncheon reached capacity more than one month ahead of the program, with 600 registrants for the Symposium and 1000 guests for the luncheon featuring the Honorable Eric Holder and Senator Doug Jones. Thanks to exceptional support from Development, sponsorship and major gifts for the Law School Symposium exceeded $370,000.

**Law School Goals for 2018-19**

- Increase 1L Enrollment and Improve Academic Profile of Class
- Expand Academic Support Services, Especially to Students in the Bottom Quartile
- Develop and Implement a New Comprehensive Program to Improve Performance on the Bar Examination