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Spring 2013

### Between the Lines Spring 2013

University of Tennessee College of Law

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University of Tennessee College of Law

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# Tennessee Law Between the Lines

*The Semi-Annual Online Companion to the Tennessee Law Magazine*

## Writing with Reynolds

Professor Glenn Reynolds took on a new commitment last fall—writing a weekly column for USA Today. No stranger to controversy and writing in the public eye, (the distinguished professor publishes Instapundit, a widely read blog) Reynolds says writing a weekly column requires a different style that gets to the point very quickly. [Read More](#)



## Blackshear Gala

The 13th annual Julian Blackshear, Jr. Scholarship Gala is scheduled for Saturday, April 6, in Knoxville. Associate Justice Cheri Beasley of the North Carolina Supreme Court will give remarks. Tickets and tables are available through the UT Law Office of Development. The gala benefits the Blackshear Scholarship. [Read More](#)



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## From the Bench: Juvenile Justice

Much rides on those who judge in the juvenile court. From custody agreements to truancy issues to neglect cases, juvenile judges make challenging decisions that impact the lives of children for years to come. Lee



## LAWYERS IN TRAINING

This semester, the College of Law Legal Clinic has more students participating in its clinics than it has space in which they can work. The school's clinical programs and externships focus on placing participants into real practice and cases, under the supervision of faculty. In the spring issue of Tennessee Law magazine, read about how these experiences are preparing students to be great lawyers.

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Send an email to editor, Tanya Brown, at [tgbrown@utk.edu](mailto:tgbrown@utk.edu), or remit to:

Tanya G. Brown  
College of Law  
1505 W. Cumberland Ave.  
Suite 248  
Knoxville, TN 37996-1810

Any letters received may be edited for length and clarity and could appear in print. Go ahead—make your voice heard!

## COMING EVENTS

[View our calendar](#) on the alumni website to see our upcoming fall events.

Bussart Bowles (LAW '01) is working to meet those challenges. [Read More](#)

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### All in the Family

George "Bo" Sanford is on track to graduate in 2015. Guiding him along the way is his sister, Kati Sanford Goodner (LAW '11), who knows a thing or two about how to succeed at the University of Tennessee College of Law. But the siblings say any rivalry they may have is all in good fun.



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#### CONTACT US

University of Tennessee College of Law  
1505 W. Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-1810  
Phone: 865-974-6788  
Fax: 865-974-6595  
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# Write What You Believe: Professor Takes on Column at USA Today

POSTED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2013 BY TANYA G. BROWN



Professor Glenn Reynolds has been offering his opinion on current events to the public, both through traditional media and his immensely popular blog, Instapundit, for most of his tenure at the College of Law. A new weekly column at USA Today, however, has given him the chance to flex his writing muscles while addressing some of the most controversial topics around.

Reynolds says the gig grew out of column work he was doing for the Washington Examiner, a political newsletter that circulates in Washington, D.C. An editor at USA Today who liked his writing called to ask if he'd be interested in writing for the daily paper.

Excited about the possibility, Reynolds agreed.

“It’s weekly for the website,” he says. “I get to write on whatever I want. One thing they said was that they liked when I wrote about things other than politics. Now that the election is over, I’m trying to branch out into other things a bit more.”

It’s a format that feels comfortable. His book, “An Army of Davids,” grew out of technical-oriented columns that he wrote during the course of five years for TechCentral Station. Does he think the USA Today columns will end up being fodder for another book?

“It could happen,” he concedes.

Reynolds wishes more faculty members would consider the good in writing for popular or mainstream media and not just as a way to create book deals. He goes back to columns often, he says, for ideas and background because the issue referenced has come up again.

“I found it to be a really great sort of intellectual sketchbook,” Reynolds says. “There’s always the sense that if you’re writing popular stuff, then it’s not scholarship. I’ve never believed that. It’s a way to think about things and work out your ideas, and some of those may find their way into scholarship. One of the things you’re supposed to do as an academic is to contribute toward public understanding, and it’s hard to that if you don’t share your own knowledge and expertise.”

The mistake most academics make, he says, is trying to write for media in the same way that one might write for a journal or other scholarly publication. Great opinion-editorial pieces, or op-eds, benefit from what he calls a “zingy” three-sentence opening paragraph.

“You have to be much more catchy,” Reynolds says. “You have to know exactly what you’re trying to get across and be very rigorously focused on that. Write an op-ed like it’s the last five minutes of your class.”

Of course, offering an opinion—even a qualified one—on current events often leads to drama. Sometimes, Reynolds posts pieces that he knows will invite public scrutiny and incite anger on the Internet. He is unapologetic about it.

On the afternoon of the Sandy Hook shootings in December, he posted a column with USA Today decrying further gun control as a useless and knee-jerk reaction. While many readers agreed, a large number also disagreed with him vehemently.

“You write for anything that has a comments section, and you’re going to hear a lot of mean stuff,” Reynolds says. “But I’ve been around the Internet for a while, and I have a thick skin, so I’m kind of used to it. I think that you ought to write what you believe, or why write at all?”

*Contribute to a big idea. Give to UT Law.*



## Blackshear Gala Set for April 6

POSTED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2013 BY TANYA G. BROWN

A portrait of Cheri Beasley, Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. She is a Black woman with short dark hair, wearing a black top and a black earring. She is smiling and looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred indoor setting with wood paneling and a flag.

# Between *the* Lines

The newest member of the North Carolina Supreme Court will speak at the 13th annual Julian Blackshear, Jr. Scholarship Gala.

The gala, which will feature a keynote address by Associate Justice Cheri Beasley, will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, at the Holiday Inn World's Fair Park, 525 Henley Street.

At the gala, the College of Law will recognize students and alumni who have positively impacted the college through their commitment to diversity.

Beasley (LAW '91) was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina in 2012. She previously served on the North Carolina Court of Appeals and began her judicial career in the Twelfth District in the late 1990s.

Beasley has been active in numerous professional organizations, including the North Carolina Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges, the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys, the Cumberland County Bar Association, and the Fayetteville Bench and Bar. She received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers University, Douglass College.

The college has hosted the Blackshear Gala annually since 2001 in honor of one of its first black graduates, Julian Blackshear, Jr.(LAW '70).

Ticket prices are \$50 per ticket; \$25 for current students. Reservations are needed by March 26.

All proceeds from ticket sales and money raised at the event will directly support the Blackshear Scholarship.

To order tickets, or for more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Rynn Dupes at 865-974-6691 or by email at [cdupes@utk.edu](mailto:cdupes@utk.edu).

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#### CONTACT US

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University of Tennessee College of Law  
1505 W. Cumberland Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-1810  
Phone: 865-974-4241  
Fax: 865-974-6595

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# Juvenile Judge Focuses on Kids

POSTED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2013 BY

A portrait of Lee Bussart Bowles, a woman with long, wavy, reddish-brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blazer over a light-colored collared shirt. The background is dark. The text 'Between the Lines' is overlaid at the bottom of the image in a large, orange and white serif font.

## Between the Lines

Lee Bussart Bowles (LAW '01) is back home doing what she says she was born to do—and she couldn't be happier.

The Lewisburg, Tenn., attorney-turned-judge won a special election last August to become a Marshall County Sessions and Juvenile Court judge. A change in the county census necessitated changing the judgeship from a part-time to a full-time job, creating the opening to which Bussart Bowles was originally appointed in 2011. Some 10 months later, she had to win a special election to keep the job.

"My mother is a teacher; and my father, Walter Bussart (LAW '66), is a lawyer, so I feel like being a juvenile judge is the job I was raised for," Bussart Bowles says. She aggressively campaigned for the job and won by a 3-2 margin.

Of course, the job entails much more than juvenile court, but it was juvenile justice that initially piqued her

interest.

“The best thing about the job is juvenile court,” she says. “I’ve really focused on truancy and have gotten positive responses from the teachers and administrators I have talked with. There is much more focus on attendance because students now know the consequences.”

Bussart Bowles started the Stepping Stones program to help lead children from the wrong path to the right path. “This is the first time Marshall County has had a full time juvenile judge who can focus on at-risk youths,” she says. “I’m really enjoying that.” With her help, the county also is starting a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

## RUNNING A CAMPAIGN

Campaigning for a judgeship was not without difficulty, Bussart Bowles says.

“It’s very difficult to explain to people what you do and why you do it,” she says of campaigning. “You can’t talk about specific cases that you may have been criticized about, and you can’t solicit the amount of money it takes to run a campaign.”

Bussart Bowles did make use of a controversial media outlet during her campaign.

“They discourage judges from having Facebook pages,” she says. “You can’t be friends with attorneys or prosecutors, but it was a major tool for me. It’s free media. It’s an easy way to get information to people who want to know about you. I’m not going to give it up until I have to.”

She is serving as a liaison to the American Bar Association Committee on Judicial Independence, representing the Young Lawyers Division. “We have been looking at how other states deal with judicial campaigns,” she says. “Tennessee is better than most states. Our system takes the best of all approaches, but it is still very difficult for a judge to run.”

Bussart Bowles ran for state representative shortly after returning to Lewisburg. Though she lost the race, she says she doesn’t mind campaigning.

“I enjoy meeting people. I wasn’t successful in my first run, but it gave me enough information to know what I was getting into.”

She has definite plans to run for re-election as Marshall County judge in 2014.

“I feel at home in public service. I hope this is a place where I can work for a long time.”

*Contribute to a big idea. Give to UT Law.*



# Brother-Sister Duo Conquers Law School

POSTED ON FEBRUARY 19, 2013 BY



You might say George “Bo” Sanford (1L) is following in his sister Kati Sanford Goodner’s (LAW ’11) footsteps at the College of Law. But, then again, it might be the other way around.

Sanford knew early on that he wanted to pursue a legal career. Law-related courses in middle and high school sparked an interest that grew stronger during the years. The lifelong Knoxvilleian enrolled as an undergraduate at UT in 2007, knowing that law school, and most likely the UT College of Law, was in his future.

He worked as a runner for a Knoxville law firm while still in high school “to expose myself to the lifestyle and pace of work.” As an undergraduate he was an intern for Tennessee Senator Bob Corker and spent more than four months in Washington, D.C., before graduating magna cum laude in political science.

While Sanford had his eye on a legal career from an early age, his older sister had a different career plan. She attended Wake Forest University and majored in English literature. Sanford Goodner intended to earn a doctorate

and then teach at a college or university.

Her career plans, however, were dramatically altered shortly before her graduation from Wake Forest in 2008.

“I had a mentor in the English department at Wake Forest who said I should go to law school,” she recalls. “I had never thought about law school. We didn’t have any lawyers in the family. My mentor said that based on what I liked to read and the way I analyzed things I should go to law school. She said I could always go back and get a doctorate later if I wanted to.”

So, older sister got the jump on younger brother, enrolling at the UT College of Law in 2008.

“Everyone told me if I wanted to practice law in Knoxville, which I did, I should go to UT,” she says.

While at UT, Sanford Goodner was a University of Tennessee Law Scholar, graduating with high honors. She maintained her scholarship by working with Professor Amy Hess as a research assistant on the leading treatise in trusts and estate law, “Bogert’s Trust and Trustees.” Along the way, she also served as president and philanthropy chair of Law Women and was an LSAT and GMAT instructor for three years.

As a distinguished young alumna of the UT College of Law and an associate with the Knoxville firm of Paine, Tarwater and Bickers LLP, Sanford Goodner was an invited panelist during the introductory period for the Class of 2015 this past August. Seated in the audience was her brother.

“It was a little intimidating,” Sanford says. “It was my idea to go to law school first, but I joked with friends that not only do I have to do what she did, but she raised the bar so high I’m going to have to attack law school from a different angle.”

In reality, no sibling rivalry exists between the pair. The two, each now married, live just five minutes from each other and talk frequently.

“Bo is very independent and handles stress well,” Sanford Goodner says. “I don’t get panic calls. He may call to bounce an idea off me or discuss an issue that came up in class, but he handles things on his own.”

Sanford admits the first semester of law school was an eye opener, but says it is definitely doable.

“Kati was great in letting me know about the lifestyle in law school and what to expect,” he says. “She is always willing to look over something or explain something if I have a question. The biggest help was just letting me know, generally, how to approach class to be successful. I admit to being a little naïve about law school at first.”

With no other attorneys in the extended family, Sanford gatherings can be interesting.

“It’s been funny because we have conversations that no one else in the family can understand,” Sanford Goodner says. “We each understand the demands and frustrations of law school.”

