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Tennessee Law Between the Lines

The Semi-Annual Online Companion to the Tennessee Law Magazine

"Lion of Trial Bar," Bobby Lee Cook to Give Orr Distinguished Lecture on September 11

One of the *ABA Journal's* legendary "Lions of the Trial Bar" will speak at the UT College of Law Friday, Sept. 11, as part of the College's Wyc and Lyn Orr Lecture Series. [Read More](#)



Harvard Calling

"It's hard enough to get an article published in the *Harvard Law Review*," says law school dean Doug Blaze. "To have Harvard ask Penny White to write for them about a case decided by the United States Supreme Court is a huge honor that speaks well to her national reputation. [Read More](#)



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Outside the Law

Our traditional class notes keep you up to date about the legal accomplishments and career milestones of our graduates. But, our alumni are active and engaging people who have interesting lives outside the practice of law. The e-news version of class notes brings you intriguing tidbits and outrageous stories about what your fellow alums are doing with the rest of their lives. [Read More](#)



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Reception for Tennessee Supreme Court Justices

The UT College of Law will host a reception for the five

HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS

The fall issue of *Tennessee Law* will profile several UT law grads who have used their degrees to build careers in the business world. Watch for it in October.

NEW KIDS IN TOWN

The One-hundred fifty-nine (159) members of the UT Law class of 2012, suitcases in tow, have been arriving on the Knoxville scene, finding places to live, and unpacking in preparation for orientation, the introductory period, and the beginning of classes. We're happy to introduce them to you.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

UT Law alumni now have their own Facebook page. Stay connected with events, faculty, and other alums at facebook.com/UTLawAlumni.



justices serving on the Tennessee Supreme Court beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3 in the Howard Baker Rotunda at the law school. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are welcome. [Read More](#)



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News & Events

"Lion of Trial Bar," Bobby Lee Cook, is Orr Distinguished Lecturer Sept. 11

One of the *ABA Journal's* legendary "Lions of the Trial Bar" will speak at the UT College of Law Friday, Sept. 11, as part of the College's Wyc and Lyn Orr Lecture Series.

Bobby Lee Cook of Summerville, Ga., who over the past six decades has tried thousands of cases in more than 40 states and several countries, will lecture beginning at noon in Room 132. The television series "Matlock" was reportedly based on his practice.

The Orr lecture series is made possible by the support of E. Wycliffe Orr, Sr. and Lyn H. Orr of Gainesville, Georgia. Mr. Orr, a 1970 graduate of the UT College of Law, is a Member with Orr Brown Johnson LLP in Gainesville.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It begins at noon in Room 132.

Cook, 82 and still practicing with Cook and Connelly, is among seven attorneys tabbed as "Lions" by the *ABA Journal*, lawyers whose names "can be found in the pages of casebooks and on the sides of law school buildings. They've tried some of the most important cases of the last 50 years, dazzling juries and swaying judges."

According to the *ABA Journal*, they have "also represented the guilty and unpopular because they thought it was the right thing to do."

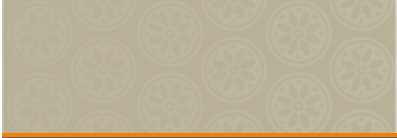
Cook has represented moonshiners and money launderers, bootleggers and bank fraud schemers. The Rockefellers and Carnegies have been his clients. And his defense of Savannah, Ga., socialite Jim Williams helped bring to life John Berendt's true-crime classic "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

The Vanderbilt Law School graduate in 1986 defended Tennessee banker C.H. Butcher Jr., who faced 25 counts of fraud and was acquitted on all counts. In the 1950s he was the only lawyer in Georgia who represented unions, considered "communists" at the time. He currently represents Wayne Williams in Williams' appeal of his 1982 conviction for the murder of two black youths in what was known as the Atlanta Child Murders.

Cook also represents three murder defendants in separate cases that will go to trial this year. He remains one of the most sought-after criminal defense lawyers in the South.

Another of the *ABA Journal's* "Lions," James Neal of Nashville, was the first speaker in the Orr Lecture Series last March.





Artwork courtesy of Trevor Goring, <http://www.imagesofjustice.com>.

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Harvard Calling

"It's hard enough to get an article published in the *Harvard Law Review*," says law school dean Doug Blaze. "To have Harvard ask Penny White to write for them about a case decided by the United States Supreme Court is a huge honor that speaks well to her national reputation."

The case, *Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co.*, decided in June, centered on whether a recently elected state supreme court justice should have recused himself from hearing the appeal of a \$50 million verdict.

Following the initial verdict and prior to the appeal, the Massey CEO pumped \$3 million into a state supreme court race that ultimately led to the unseating of the incumbent. When the case reached the state supreme court, the new justice refused to recuse himself from the case and cast the deciding vote to reverse the \$50 million verdict. In a 5-4 opinion, Justice Kennedy said that in the interest of judicial independence, the justice should have recused himself.

White, now the Elvin E. Overton Distinguished Professor of Law and director of the UT College of Law's Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution, has first-hand experience with the politicalization of judicial independence. In 1996 she became the first and only Tennessee Supreme Court Justice to lose a retention election, as a consequence of a campaign intimating that she had turned loose a man who raped and murdered a 77-year-old woman. While then Justice White did not write an opinion on that case, *State v. Odom*, she was a woman and the only justice up for election at the time. Contrary to the ads, White didn't vote to turn loose Odom. The Supreme Court, in fact, unanimously affirmed Odom's conviction. White did vote for a rehearing of the convicted killer's death sentence, however, as did every other appellate judge who heard the case.

Nonetheless, campaign ads were aired on radio and mailed to thousands of Tennesseans urging them to oust Justice White "since she has never voted to uphold the death penalty."

Actually, White had participated as a judge in only one other capital case in which the guilt of the perpetrator was at issue, and in that case she voted to uphold the death penalty. That case, however, was when she was on the Court of Criminal Appeals. Ironically, she didn't even harbor an opinion for or against the death penalty at the time of the *Odom* case.

Although her ouster from the Tennessee court did not immediately change her opinion about capital punishment, it did create continuing national interest in her writings on judicial independence and death penalty issues.

White's article on the *Caperton* case is scheduled to appear in the November issue of the *Harvard Law Review*. "The case reads like a John Grisham novel," she says. "*Caperton* is one of the most important decisions of the Court this year and may eventually affect how states choose judges."

Excerpted from "Disorder in the Courts," an article by Dennis McCarthy scheduled to appear in the fall issue of Quest magazine, which highlights research, scholarship





and creative activity at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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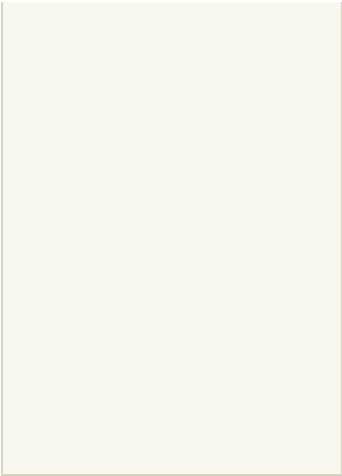

Outside the Law

Lee Bussart Bowles ('01) and her fainting goat, Camilla Parker Bowles, are carving out a new niche on the beauty pageant circuit. Camilla was elected Prettiest Goat in Marshall County. She won the title by beating out a goat belonging to the mayor of Lewisburg. The victory caught the attention of News Channel 2 in Nashville as well as PBS. Lee received the goat from a family friend and made an immediate entrance into the legal world. While Lee was mediating a case with attorneys from Memphis, Camilla, who was tied to the water spigot behind Lee's building, tried to jump and head butt her way into the office. Camilla, who has three kids—Super Bowles, Punch Bowles, and Fiesta Bowles—has high hopes for keeping the title in the family. Come see Lee and her famous fainting goat at the Goat, Music, and More Festival (<http://www.goatsmusicandmore.com/>) in Lewisburg this October.



Kyle Williams ('01), who was Lee's clinic partner during law school, is involved with an election of his own. He is running for the District 2 City Commission seat in Decatur, Georgia. His campaign is focusing on affordable housing, crime reduction, education, environmental sustainability, and smart land use and zoning. He has served on the Decatur Zoning Board of Appeals since 2007. Even if you can't vote for him, check out his website at <http://www.electkylewilliams.com> and come press the flesh with Kyle and other alumni at the Annual Metro-Atlanta Alumni Event on October 13 at his home in Decatur.

Mason Jones ('07) wondered how South Carolina got to be the state with the most public pride. After seeing countless bumper stickers, t-shirts, hats, and flip flops with the famous palmetto tree and crescent moon, Mason decided it was time for Tennessee to show its colors. Initially partnering with fellow alum Brock Bosson, he started Volunteer Traditions to bring the state flag of Tennessee to national prominence. His company markets ties, hats, polos, dog collars and leashes and other items that have the three stars of the state flag as the main design. To see a full line of his products go to www.volunteertraditions.com.



Everyone already knew that we produce the best lawyers in Tennessee. Now we have produced the man with most state spirit.

Class notes are online at <http://www.law.utk.edu/alumni/class-notes.shtml>. You can submit your updates at <http://www.law.utk.edu/alumni/devreperform.htm>.

If you know of alumni who are doing unique, glamorous, trend-setting, or otherwise mind-boggling things outside the law, send an e-mail to Lauren Herbstritt at lh@utk.edu and include "outside the law" in the subject line.

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Reception for Tennessee Supreme Court Justices



Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are (seated) Chief Justice Janice M. Holder and (standing left to right) Justice Cornelia A. Clark, Justice William C. Koch, Jr., and Justices Gary R. Wade and Sharon G. Lee.

The UT College of Law will host a reception for the five justices serving on the Tennessee Supreme Court beginning at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3 in the Howard Baker Rotunda at the law school. Faculty, staff, students and alumni are welcome.

"Tennessee is blessed with an exceptional Supreme Court whose members are strongly committed to improving our system of justice," said Dean Doug Blaze. "The College of Law is very pleased to have the opportunity to thank and recognize the Court for its leadership and its support for the law school and legal education."

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Saturday, Sept. 12 (UCLA—kick off at 4 p.m.), Professor Jennifer Hendricks will lecture on “Contingent Equal Protection: The Future of Government Policies to Promote Equality and Integration” at 1 p.m. in Room 136 of the Law School. One hour of general CLE credit will be awarded. Free program.

Saturday, Oct. 10 (Georgia), Professor Alex Long will present “The Ethical Responsibilities of Law Firm Partners, Managers, and Supervisory Lawyers,” also in Room 136. The program, which carries one hour of dual credit, will begin three hours prior to kickoff. Free program.

Saturday, Oct. 31 (South Carolina), Steve Feldman, attorney with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, will lecture on “Tips for Success in Federal Procurements” beginning five and a half hours before kickoff. This program carries 2.5 hours of general and a half hour of dual CLE credit. Program costs \$30.

Advance registration will hold your place. Go to <http://www.law.utk.edu/cle/09FootballCLE.pdf> and click on the program names for the registration forms.