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TENNESSEE LAW

Between the Lines

The Semi-Annual Online Companion to the Tennessee Law Magazine

UT Law Goes to China

In late May, representatives from the University of Tennessee College of Law visited three universities in China. The trip to Chinese law schools shed light on a legal system in the midst of major changes. It also laid the groundwork for more collaboration between China's legal community and the Tennessee Law network.

[Read more.](#)



Advocacy Center Suite Named for Founder, Jerry H. Summers

The Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution now resides proudly on the third floor of the College of Law in the Jerry H. Summers Suite. The center named its new location for one of its most staunch supporters and one of its founders, Jerry H. Summers. [Read more.](#)



Planting the Seeds of Hope

THE FUTURE OF HEALTH LAW

From Obamacare to insurance wellness programs, health care in the United States is changing quickly. What role does the law currently play in the field and how will future lawyers be expected to tackle the challenges? The fall 2013 issue of *Tennessee Law* magazine will examine the future of health law and the role of lawyers.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Send an email to editor, Tanya Brown, at tgbrown@utk.edu, or remit to:

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Knoxville, TN 37996-1810

Any letters received may be edited for length and clarity.

COMING EVENTS

View our [calendar](#) on the alumni

New Orleans has gotten into Ted Le Clercq's blood. A 20-year resident of the city on the Gulf, he watched the people of his adopted city fight back from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and decided to get involved. [Read more.](#)



Correction: Spring 2013 Tennessee Law magazine, development report

Richard L. Holcomb (LAW '04) was mistakenly listed in the "In Memory of..." section of the Spring 2013 issue of Tennessee Law magazine. The College of Law is happy to report that Holcomb is alive and well in Hawaii. Aloha!



and friends website to see our upcoming fall events.



[Click here](#) to view the current edition of *Tennessee Law*.



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UT Law deans visit China

POSTED ON AUGUST 30, 2013 BY TANYA G. BROWN



Trip highlights changes, opportunities ahead

By Tanya G. Brown

When Dean Doug Blaze and Associate Dean Greg Stein visited China in May they were able to see a legal system still in its infancy and the changes being wrought through it.

The trip, in which Blaze and Stein visited three different law schools, gave each a better picture of how the legal system will continue to evolve in the world's most populous nation. Perhaps more importantly, the trip solidified the role that the United States legal community, and UT Law, may be able to have in that future.

"China's entire legal system was shut down in the 1970s," says Stein. "They then started over about 25 years ago.

Their legal system changed from pure communism to being much more open to the west. They were essentially building a legal system from nothing. What it took us 200 years to create, China has basically done overnight.”

Stein, who traveled to China as a Fulbright Scholar for the first time more than 10 years ago, has ventured back to the country several times over the course of the decade as both a teacher and a scholar, studying the burgeoning legal system.

Faculty members with whom he had previously taught have served as visiting scholars at UT Law over the years and helped Stein set up the trip with their universities. He also worked with the University of Indiana’s McKinney School of Law, which UT Law partners with on a summer program that allows its students to study in Beijing.

“This relationship with China has really progressed over the years and touched all the aspects of the law school,” Stein says. “We’ve had faculty going both ways. We’ve had students go there, and some come here. It was time to take the next step.”

UT Law also has alumni working in China, supervising Chinese divisions of their larger law firms, says Dean Blaze. The trip allowed the deans to meet with alumni working in Shanghai, as well as spend time presenting to law classes and discussing UT Law’s strengths with representatives at Renmin University Law School in Beijing, KoGuan Law School of Shanghai Jiaotong University and Shanghai University Law School.

“They are very interested, because of our experience and reputation in clinical work, in seeing if there are ways we can help them begin to do clinical programming,” Blaze says. “Their clinics will likely be more simulation-based, experiential learning, but they are eager to move forward.”

Both Stein and Blaze say traveling in China does take some adjustments, since the Internet is censored, and some of the meetings with law school personnel were also attended and monitored by a Communist party secretary.

“It’s a country that is having legal education go through a transformation as the country itself is going through a transformation,” says Blaze.

To view a Flickr gallery of photos from the China trip, please visit our [gallery](#).

Contribute to a big idea. Give to UT Law.

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Advocacy Center Suite Named for Jerry H. Summers

POSTED ON AUGUST 30, 2013 BY TANYA G. BROWN



The Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution now resides proudly on the third floor of the College of Law in the Jerry H. Summers Suite. The center named its new location for one of its most staunch supporters and one of its founders, Jerry H. Summers.

Summers practices law at Summers & Wyatt in Chattanooga, TN—a firm he founded in 1969. The firm and Summers engage in a wide variety of trial work, including representing clients in criminal, tort and employment matters. Among the recognized highlights of Jerry's career are his two successful arguments in the United States Supreme Court.

In addition to practicing law, Summers is an active community member. Summers believes in the philosophy of giving back as is evident in the multitude of ways he gives back to the College of Law. Not only was Summers one

of the original founders whose gifts created the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution, in 2008 he and the Summers & Wyatt law firm created the Summers-Wyatt Trial Advocacy Endowment, which funds scholarships and symposia.

Each year, the center names Summers-Wyatt scholars, chosen from students whose career objectives are to practice criminal defense or civil plaintiff's trial work (see related story, page 4). Consistent with Summers's philosophy of giving back, the scholarship criteria includes a preference for Hamilton County residents; graduates of UT Knoxville, UT Chattanooga or Sewanee; and descendants of Tennessee lawyers who have served in named organizations, including the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Tennessee Association for Justice, and the Tennessee Bar Association. The use of these criteria make it likely that the Summers-Wyatt scholars will give back by practicing law in Tennessee as engaged members of the legal community. The Summers-Wyatt Endowment has enabled the center to host low-cost, high-quality continuing legal and judicial education programs. Hundreds of Tennessee lawyers and judges have heard national experts discuss media relations, childrens' rights issues, and, most recently, immigration law (see related story, page 9).

Summers also served as chair of the law school's Campaign for Tennessee. Under his leadership, the college was able to exceed its campaign goal and raise \$15.5 million. "Jerry Summers made this happen," said Dean Doug Blaze. "His tireless efforts on behalf of the College of Law were largely responsible for our meeting and exceeding our campaign goal."

Money raised from the capital campaign allows the school to fund additional scholarships and award faculty excellence with professorships and research grants.

On April 25, Tennessee Supreme Court Chief Justice Gary Wade and former Chief Justice Mickey Barker joined Dean Doug Blaze and a group of law students, faculty and staff to give a little back to Summers. Center Director Penny White unveiled the newly stenciled letters officially naming Room 302 at the College of Law as the Jerry H. Summers Suite.

In doing so, White said, "I cannot think of another Tennessee lawyer who more epitomizes the values we seek to instill in those who participate in the advocacy and dispute resolution concentration. Without Jerry's vision, his generosity, and his tireless efforts the concentration would not exist. We will endeavor to live up to the honor of bearing Jerry's name."

- Staff reports

To view a Flickr gallery of photos from the event, please visit our [gallery](#).

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Planting the Seeds of Hope

POSTED ON AUGUST 30, 2013 BY TANYA G. BROWN



Alum finishes restoration eight years after Katrina

By Jason Collver

New Orleans has gotten into Ted Le Clercq's blood. A 20-year resident of the city on the Gulf, he watched the people of his adopted city fight back from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and decided to get involved.

An employment and professional liability defense attorney with Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stile in New Orleans, LeClercq (LAW '89) took on a revitalization project he expected to last a couple of years. His time as organizer of the replanting of live oak trees along New Orleans' historic St. Charles Avenue ended up lasting eight years. It was a labor he says was worth every moment of extra work and concern.

A revitalization

After Katrina, many people assumed the city would never recover. “We knew this was not true,” says Le Clerq. St. Charles Avenue, a New Orleans icon where people from around the world come to ride the oldest streetcars in the United States, seemed like a great place to step into rebuilding. Tourists from all over the globe flock to it to celebrate Mardi Gras every year. The Avenue is filled with a rich history that goes back to when the United States bought New Orleans from France. Le Clerq is thrilled that his efforts have helped to restore the area to its former glory.

“The replanting was fueled by a new wave of public-private action in the city,” Le Clerq says. “This cooperation demonstrates a new commitment by New Orleanians to revitalize the city and make it a better place than it ever was before.”

The original revitalization project consisted of planting 100 new oak trees on the commercial district of St. Charles Avenue, but expanded in a short amount of time. “The project quickly gained support from the community and we extended the project to eight years and more than 300 trees, completely replanting the avenue,” Le Clerq says.

Pitching in, building up

More than \$300,000 private dollars were raised for the endeavor, with some donations coming from local businesses and others from the smallest members of the community at Trinity School. The students held a penny drive, competing in teams to collect the most pennies to put towards purchasing a tree, but other teams could put larger coins and paper money into the jugs of opposing teams, which counted against those teams. Those donations went toward purchasing the trees and the critical maintenance for the first year after planting, which Le Clerq estimates at nearly \$1000 per tree.

“The replanting of St. Charles Avenue was the first like it on the avenue in over 100 years,” he says. “New Orleans is a city transformed in many ways post-Katrina.” He cites the city’s record-setting growth, and an improved education system that is functioning better than it has for nearly half a century, as well as a charter school system that is being modeled around the country.

Replanting St. Charles Avenue, Le Clerq says, helps those who come to the city see tangible proof of the growth and beauty of a town he has grown to love.

“The people who counted New Orleans out were wrong,” he says. “Our city is back and better than ever.”

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