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UT VOLS FOR VETS

Students Work Pro Bono for
Soldiers at Fort Campbell



ALSO
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Maker

Annual Giving
Report

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with King

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On the Cover: College of Law students traveled to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, with UT Pro Bono in March as part of Alternative Spring Break. Photograph by Andrew Hancock/Adrenaline Visuals.

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YOU—OUR ALUMNI—never cease to amaze me. You do great things in the courtroom, in the boardroom, and in a variety of other settings. You are successful judges, lawyers, and business people. You mentor, hire, and teach our students. You serve your community, state, and country in a number of different ways. And you are now financially supporting your law school at unprecedented levels.

When I became dean almost four years ago, I was somewhat skeptical about our ability to reach our campaign goal of \$15 million. As I watched the hard work of our campaign chair, Jerry Summers, and committee members Ann Pruitt, Buck Lewis, John Rogers, Rick Rose, and Al Separk, I started to understand. Our alumni really care about the College of Law—they are connected to it. Not only did we meet our goal, we exceeded it by raising more than \$15.6 million dollars. That support is already making a significant difference. Your generosity has resulted in a number of new scholarships, professorships, and a host of new programs like the Homer A. Jones, Jr. Wills Clinic.

Thanks to all of you, the law school is thriving. This spring has been exceptionally busy. The Summers-Wyatt Symposium attracted more than 120 lawyers and law students to hear John Sighthaler, Tom Griscom, Pamela Mackey, and others talk about “Crisis, Coverage, and Communication: Advocacy in a 24/7 News World.” The Clayton Center and our Sports & Entertainment Law Society worked together to attract an impressive array of entertainment lawyers and business executives, including our own Joel Katz, for the day-long program “Metamorphosis: How Technology is Reshaping Entertainment.” The twelfth annual Blackshear Gala was our most successful ever in terms of attendance and fundraising for scholarships. Judge Bernice Donald delivered an inspiring keynote address at the event, which was sponsored by Merchant & Gould, Pilot Corporation, and fourteen law firms from across the state. Thank goodness things slow down a little during the summer!

As the spring semester ends, we are already looking forward to the fall. We have three terrific new faculty members joining us. In addition, Justice Elena Kagan will be visiting for two days in October as the inaugural Richard Rose Distinguished Jurist in Residence. And that is just a small sample of what we have planned.

So thanks to all of you for making this possible! Your support makes all the difference. We can’t do it without you—and fortunately we don’t have to.



“Our alumni really care about the College of Law—they are connected to it. ”

Doug Blaze
DOUG BLAZE

“Lawyers and paychecks are two halves of a long-running joke. How many times have you heard someone crack wise about being taken to the cleaners by an attorney? The good ones get the job done, and you get your money’s worth. But they get their money, every time, right?



That’s why it’s refreshing when our alumni and our students buck the stereotype of the lawyer that’s only in it for the billable hours. Our burgeoning pro bono program, led by attorney Brad Morgan, who practiced in Knoxville prior to joining UT Law, is teaching students the value of more than the dollar. Through programs and partnerships like Saturday Bar, Legal Aid, and Alternative Spring Break, our students are learning that sometimes an honest smile or the feel of a client’s hand gripping yours in gratitude can be just as meaningful.

In this issue, we invite you to spend time with students who are donating some of their precious study time in order to offer assistance to the underserved. Read about Brit-tany Thomas, the Tennessee Bar Association’s Student Volunteer of the Year. Get to know Thomas Morelli, who places giving back high on his list of priorities, even as he raises a family and attends law school. Meet some of the men and women of the Judge Advocate General Corps in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, who brought our students to post for a

crash course in military law and then invited them into their homes for bonding over burgers.

For a story sure to make you smile, check out the feature on alumnus Jeremy Padawer, who is using his talent as a toy maker and marketer to enliven the childhoods of kids the world over with his latest cartoon adventure, *Monsuno*.

Our alumni continue the spirit of giving back in Development’s annual report, which details the many alumni who helped us exceed our fundraising campaign goal. As campaign co-chair Jerry Summers says in a video you may view online (see page 5), “For those people who helped get you where you’ve got to, there ought to be some payback there.” These alums are paying back UT Law, with their time, their treasure, and their talent.

We couldn’t be more grateful to count among our community so many upstanding examples of the integrity and charity of the law.


Tanya Brown

“Our students are learning that sometimes an honest smile or the feel of a client’s hand gripping yours in gratitude can be just as meaningful.”

P.S. Don’t forget to send me your letters, comments, and suggestions for stories you would like to see in Tennessee Law. Your thoughts are always welcome.

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ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

On behalf of Dean Doug Blaze, the faculty at the University of Tennessee College of Law, my co-chairperson, Anne Jarvis, and the entire Development and Alumni Affairs office under Howie Avery, I wish to thank those who helped us reach our \$15 million goal as our part of the Capital Campaign recently concluded by the university.

The support of our alumni is a strong indicator of the loyalty of our graduates and their appreciation for the excellent legal education acquired in Knoxville.

The needs of the law school continue to rise as it strives to maintain and exceed its reputation as a premier institution for legal training in our country. Relying heavily on the state of Tennessee for financial support is no longer an option to maintain that high standard.

The yearly campaign to raise additional funds must be strengthened, and representatives of each class are being sought to contact the many successful graduates of UT Law. If you would be willing to serve in some capacity, please contact Howie Avery in the Development and Alumni Affairs office by calling 865-974-6857 or by email at havery@utk.edu.

The annual giving report in the back of this magazine lists those generous donors who helped us reach our goal. Won't you please consider adding your name by making a gift of cash, stock, property, or any other estate planning and/or tax measure device to support our continuing needs?

The potential for a greater law school is unlimited. I respectfully request that you ask yourself one question: How much of my success in the practice of law and/or business do I owe to my training at UT Law? After answering this question, I respectfully urge you to show your appreciation by joining our list of donors. If you have already contributed, thank you again.

Being involved in this campaign has been a hectic but rewarding experience for me, and with the ongoing help of the faculty and staff we will continue to strive to become a greater institution of learning.

Thank you once again for your help and support in the past and in the future.



Jerry H. Summers
Co-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry".

Jerry H. Summers



Please visit law.utk.edu to watch a thank you video to donors featuring students, faculty, and staff at the College of Law. The video may be viewed from the rotating media section at the top of the page.

By R.G. Smithson



student driven service

Pro Bono program gives students
real world experience

Above: The Memphis Alternative Spring Break participants outside the University of Memphis School of Law, where they worked. From left, John Higgins, Rachel Clark, Maria Menchaca (Hamline Law School), John Jolley, Eylse Nida, Brittany Thomas, Randy Clark (LMU), Estefania Chavez and Valeria Gomez.



At right: John Jolley and Rachel Clark work on U-visas in Memphis.

Third-year law student Brittany Thomas had to travel across Tennessee to experience the one moment she will remember long after graduation, but she will quickly tell you that it was well worth it.

As a 2L during the summer of 2011, Thomas was among a group of students from the College of Law that represented immigrants in an asylum case through the Community Legal Center in Memphis.

“It was my best moment ever,” says Thomas, who went on to serve as director of UT Pro Bono during the 2011–2012 academic year. “I was the first person out of the courtroom, and I was able to tell the client, his brother, and the witnesses that we had won. Being able to deliver that news was the single most rewarding moment of my law school career.”

Year Round Service for Clients in Need

Thomas hopes that more students will get to have these types of experiences since pro bono and public interest work by UT Law students has become even more significant now than it ever has been in the past.

“UT has the best pro bono program I’ve ever been around,” she says. “We have year-round programs, alternative spring break programs, and funded public interest summer fellowships. Most law schools have only one of those things.”



servicemen and women through the JAG offices at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, working with at-risk youth in East Tennessee, and more.

“The clients we help through these agencies are glad to have their voices heard,” Thomas says. “We see so many clients that are just pushed through the system. For them, being able to get one-on-one service is something they really appreciate.”

The mission of UT Pro Bono is to serve clients whose needs would not otherwise be met, while at the same time instilling in its law students ideas about professionalism, ethics, and the role of attorneys as the gatekeepers of the legal system. In the process, students forge relationships with the legal community and the community at large.

“One of the great things about UT Pro Bono is that it always has been, and will continue to be, student driven,” says Brad Morgan (LAW ’05), the college’s Access to Justice and Mentoring Programs coordinator. “I cannot speak highly enough of our students when it comes to their drive, their motivation, and their commitment and dedication to the ideals of access to justice.”

The Allure of Alternative Spring Break

The impetus for Alternative Spring Break grew out of a conference Morgan attended in early 2011. “When I returned I asked student leaders if this was something they would be interested in pursuing,” Morgan says. “The answer was quickly, ‘Yes,’ and then it became, ‘How do we implement it?’”


Under the leadership of Thomas, UT Pro Bono worked throughout the remainder of 2011 and well into 2012 on this year’s spring break activities.

“Alternative Spring Break allows students to dedicate more than just a few hours a week to pro bono service,” Morgan says. “Students can experience the process from beginning to end. The needs are immense. It is a matter of identifying the issues and seeing what our students can do.”

Morgan says current hot topics are legal services for servicemen and women and their families, juvenile justice programs, securing refugee rights, and domestic violence and abuse. “All the programs we are working with are excited because with our students’ help they can increase their services in a significant way.”

UT Pro Bono’s goal is to have 33 percent of the student body involved in one way or another. Heading into spring break in March 2012, the participation rate was at about 25 percent, or one hundred students. About thirty of those were involved in an Alternative Spring Break program.

John Jolley, a 1L from Crossville, Tennessee, worked with the Memphis group.

“The long hours we put in seems well worth it when I consider that, absent our pro bono assistance, these individuals would likely not have the ability to file these Visa applications themselves,” Jolley says. “It was good to be able to represent the College of Law and its amazing Pro Bono program to the city of Memphis and our peers at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.” 

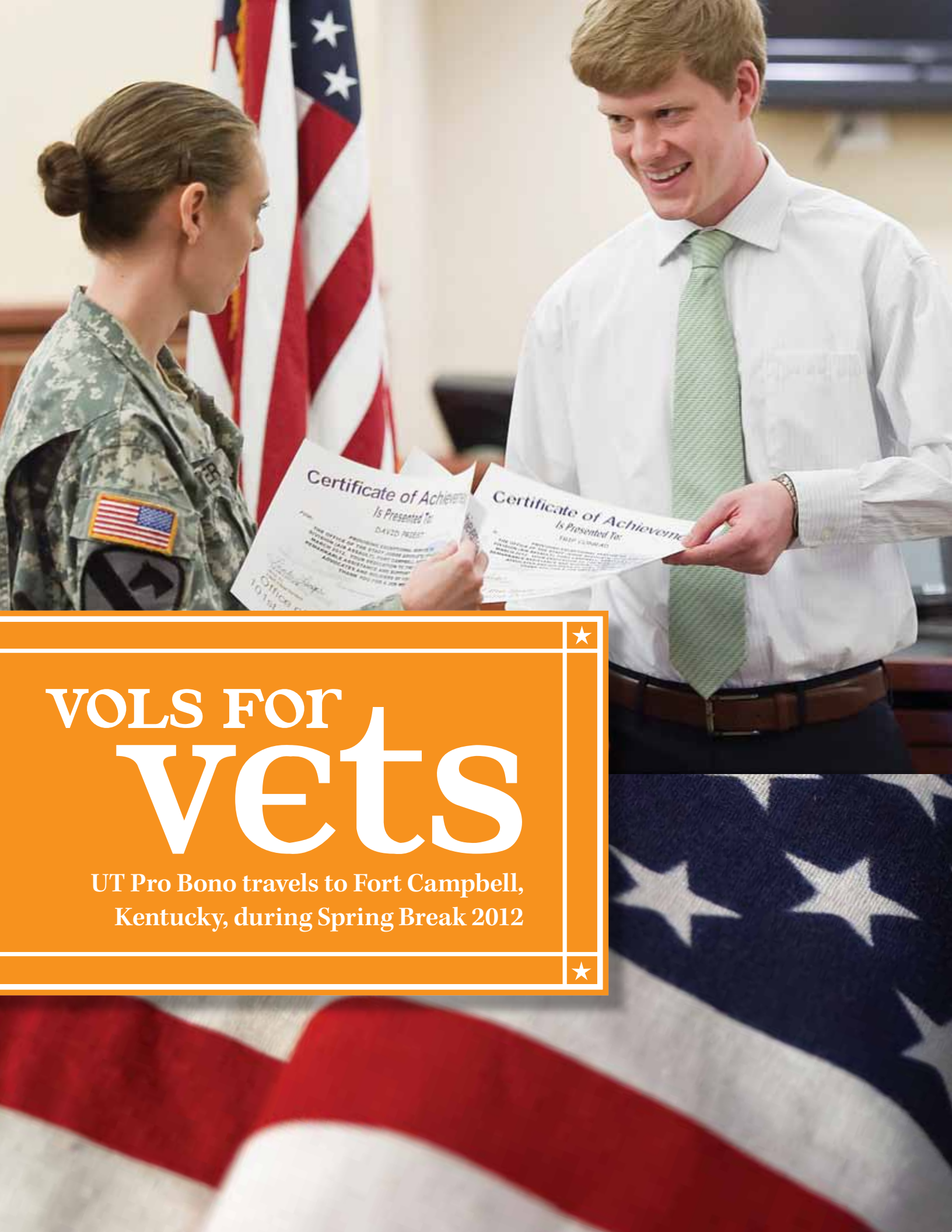


Above left: Tiffany Shackleford participates in an event at Knoxville’s Pond Gap Elementary School aimed at serving youth with at least one incarcerated parent. Above: A group of UT Law and Lincoln Memorial University students complete cover letters for U-visas in Memphis.

By the Numbers

UT Pro Bono Alternative Spring Break 2012

Days of service	5
Student participants	30
Clients receiving services	81
Visa applications completed	5
Hours of service rendered	More than 800



VOLS FOR vets

UT Pro Bono travels to Fort Campbell,
Kentucky, during Spring Break 2012

By Tanya G. Brown

★ On a balmy afternoon in late March, a group of University of Tennessee law students crowded around a table full of laptops in what was once a military hospital. Trading stacks of print outs and french fries, the group spent several days neck-deep in paperwork, foregoing the beachside views and air conditioning that many of their classmates were enjoying in other parts of the world.

The trip to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, gave College of Law students the chance to observe military law firsthand while helping out the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Major Leah Linger, who heads up the legal services office on post at Fort Campbell, says the students prepared for the trip by reading up on military law regulations and examples of rebuttals so they could hit the ground running on base.

“They even had homework, which they must have done because they’ve done a great job since arriving here,” she says. “We’re two attorneys down right now, so we really appreciate what they’ve been able to do.”

On a Mission with the Military

As law students, the UT group members worked under the supervision of Major Linger, as well as Captain Mark Robinson, who works in the office. Students helped with client intake at the legal clinic and tax clinics, reviewed financial liability investigations of property loss (FLIPLs), wrote recommendations for the JAG officers to review, and contributed to a stepparent adoption packet for a soldier, in addition to other assignments.

The JAG corps at Fort Campbell serves a community of 230,000, including soldiers, family members, retirees, and retiree family members. From the FLIPLs—with which active duty soldiers often are served to seek payment for damage to military property during their many relocations—to advice about divorces, adoptions, and other civilian matters, judge advocates rarely take a break.

“We see about 200 people a day on average in our legal clinic,” Major Linger said. “Any time we can get help, at least with the information gathering portion of our work, it makes a huge difference.”

For David Priest, a UT Law 2L who worked with Major Linger to organize the trip, with the sponsorship of Lewis, King, Krieg and Waldrop, PC, the difference it made was in the overall picture of how he looks at his role as a lawyer.

“Helping out our military is a huge mission of mine,” Priest said. “This trip, being able to spend a few days learning from and helping out these folks, is by far the most meaningful moment of law school for me. I’m so honored to have been given the opportunity.”

For 2L Kitty Ganier, the trip helped to satisfy a patriotic itch she’s been trying to scratch for most of her life.

“My sister worked at the Pentagon, and I grew up with my granddad, who is a veteran,” Ganier said. “My brother-in-law is in the military and I was a US athlete before law school. In college, I was on the short list for the World Cup pentathlon, which includes running, shooting, and swimming. I’ve always kicked around the idea of doing something related to military work. This really makes me think about it.”

Above left: Major Leah Linger presents 2L Trip Conrad with a certificate honoring his pro bono work on post. At right: Captain Jodie Grimm discusses UT Pro Bono’s work at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.





The JAG Corps, Demystified

Spending three days with the Judge Advocate General Corps helped the students get a firsthand look at how military law differs from civilian law. They learned that what happens in a military court may not closely mirror the dramas they follow on television.

Trip Conrad, a 2L, says the range of duties and types of law that judge advocates work in surprised him. Besides trials and criminal investigations, judge advocates also work to ensure that military personnel are afforded the rights guaranteed to them by their service, such as ending apartment leases without penalty when they deploy or seeking loans for small businesses and homes.

“I just didn’t know exactly what they did,” Conrad says. “You get such a wide range of experience. You move around the country a lot so you work on many different things. Overall, I’m more encouraged to go into the JAG after this experience than I was before it.”

Conrad said doing simple work like client intake at the tax center on post helped him to better understand how to interact with future clients. As a student volunteer, he couldn’t offer advice or try to solve client issues, but he was able to enter their issues into the system, fill out the appropriate paperwork, and offer a listening ear.

“I signed them up and greeted them with a smile,” he says. “That immediately helped put them at ease. I think a lot of people wanted to tell their story about specific tax problem, and just having someone to listen and direct them where to go was helpful.”

Brad Morgan, coordinator of UT Pro Bono and the Mentoring program, agreed that the visit helped to demystify military law.

“Going to Fort Campbell helped our students gain exposure to what military attorneys actually do,” Morgan says. “It’s sort of a mystery, an enigma to many law students. That experience was really useful to our students.”

The Power to Change Lives

Beyond serving the country, many people see the military as a brotherhood and sisterhood whose members become family when they swear to serve and protect the United States, its people, and its interests.

Thomas Morelli, a 2L who hails from Brazil, says spending his spring break with the Judge Advocate General Corps reinforced his idea of the US Army and other military branches as a family of skilled defenders.

“It’s very interesting to see the tradition and the camaraderie,” Morelli says. “They all

UT PRO BONO AND VOLS FOR VETS
 If you have a pro bono opportunity in your area, or would like to suggest alternative spring break experiences for UT Law students to pursue, contact Brad Morgan, program coordinator at 865-974-2492 or email rmorgan2@utk.edu. The law school also welcomes opportunities to volunteer with veterans in the area, from networking to companionship meetings such as lunches and visiting with older veterans.



know each other, and they're really respectful of each other. The team player and team leadership mentality you see here is fantastic. You expect that of the military, but when you're here and you experience it, it's way beyond what you expected."

Morelli, who hopes to work for Legal Aid for a few years after finishing law school, says the spirit that drives him to pursue a legal career is apparent in every aspect of the Judge Advocate General Corps.

"The power an attorney can have in somebody else's life is really something," he says. "I hope that I can change people's lives—I can help them stay in their home, help them get a check they deserve, and understand that it's a big deal when their landlord locks them out of their house."

Morelli believes that while the rules and procedures followed in military law differ from those in the civilian setting, that overarching mission to do what's best for the clients, to make a difference in their lives, remains the same.

"Military law is like law on steroids because it's just completely different. But they conduct themselves with respect on behalf of their clients. That doesn't change." 🌟

Photos above (beginning on page 10): 1) Students complete work during this year's Alternative Spring Break trip to Fort Campbell. 2) Brad Morgan and Thomas Morelli follow the group into the courthouse on post. 3) Kitty Ganler, 2L, takes a break. 4) Brad Morgan, program coordinator, talks with Lt. Col. Sabastian Edwards (left) and Lt. Col. Jeff Bovarnick. 5) Soldiers attend a recognition ceremony for UT Law students. 6) Students were invited to a barbecue after hours to relax after a long day's work.

OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE JAG CORP

Summer JAG internships are available for 2Ls each year at Fort Campbell and at other posts worldwide. The highly competitive program is a paid position. Externships also are available.

"Law school can be kind of insular," says Captain Mark Robinson, judge advocate. "Doing these kinds of things can help you decide if the JAG is right for you, and it definitely will make you a better lawyer in the long run."

The annual application deadline is November 1. For more information on the summer internship program and other opportunities with JAG, please visit goarmy.com/jag.



Thomas Named Law Student Volunteer of the Year

Brittany Thomas, a third-year law student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, spent her spring break not on the beach but with other student volunteers in Memphis. She worked on a pro bono project as part of Alternative Spring Break to help female immigrants renew their visas.



For years of efforts like these, Thomas has recently been named Law Student Volunteer of the Year by the Tennessee Bar Association.

The award is given annually to a law student in Tennessee who demonstrates leadership and volunteer service by providing legal representation to the underserved.

Thomas has volunteered with and is now the student coordinator of the Saturday Bar in Knoxville, a service that offers free legal advice to the public. Throughout her law school career, she has volunteered with Legal Aid of East Tennessee, the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands, and Memphis's Community Legal Center's Immigrant Justice Program (CLC/IJP). During her last year, though, she has taken on a significant amount of work and responsibility, including becoming the director of UT's Pro Bono program.

The Pro Bono program has a five-year plan to increase participation, and Thomas set out to help achieve this goal.

"It's all about dedication and making time," she says. "When you make time for something, you find it so rewarding that you want to keep doing it."

Doug Blaze, dean of the College of Law, says he believes her work and dedication has not only benefitted Thomas, but the college and community as well.

"Brittany's pro bono work will make her a better lawyer and a better advocate in the long run," Blaze says. "But best of all, she's helping those in need in our community and around the state, right now. I have no doubt she'll continue her important work after graduation."

That's something Thomas is already thinking about.

"I'd really like to do immigration work," she says. "I've had four different jobs involving immigration while in law school."



Watch a video about Thomas, her pro bono work, and her TBA award on the College of Law's YouTube channel at tiny.utk.edu/rUmzM.

Above left: Brittany Thomas poses with her TBA Volunteer of the Year award. Above: Thomas and others were honored by the TBA at a reception this spring in Nashville.

When Carlos Yunsan heard that the College of Law was starting a mentoring program, he jumped at the chance to participate. Having just finished his 1L year, he was eager to expand his connections with the local bar.

“I wanted to get a taste of what the actual practice of law is like,” Yunsan says.

During his previous career in public health, Yunsan had learned firsthand the invaluable impact of working with a mentor. “Access to an experienced practitioner in your field who contributes to your professional development is a precious commodity,” he says.

Yunsan was paired with William “Bill” Simms (LAW ’71), of Arnett, Draper and Hagood in Knoxville, and the match has been beneficial to both parties. Yunsan has kept in close contact with Simms, discussing his career aspirations and asking questions about the practice of law. He attended the annual banquet of the Knoxville Chapter of the American Inns of Court as a guest of Simms, who introduced the law student to local attorneys and judges. Yunsan says the experience helped him make positive connections in the local legal community who shared their thoughts on current legal issues and possible career paths for law students.

He is looking forward to observing Simms further in depositions, mediations, and at trial.

Simms, who says he appreciates the opportunity to serve as a mentor, also knows the value of the mentoring relationship from personal experience. When he graduated from College of Law, Simms chose to study with Foster D. Arnett instead of working in his father’s firm. He called the moment “a pivotal decision” in his life, and says the experience he gained from working closely with Arnett remains immeasurable.

“He and I worked closely on many cases, and I had the opportunity of working with him in analyzing factual and legal issues, interviewing witnesses, marshaling evidence, preparing for depositions and trial, trying cases in court and writing briefs on appeal,” Simms says. “Sadly, many young lawyers do not have the opportunities readily available to them to have the guidance, counsel, and support of other members of the practicing bar.”

He sees his service as a mentor as a way to give back to the law school where he earned his degree and as a way to offer tribute to Arnett and the many attorneys in his family, which included his grandfather, father, and uncle.

Simms says the questions Yunsan asks him have helped him grow as an attorney.

“The keen intellect and inquiring analysis of the student of the law can always be of benefit to the experienced practitioner,” he says. “We can all learn from listening. The UT Law mentoring program has not only given me the opportunity to teach, but also to learn.”



A Professional Pairing

Mentoring program benefits students, attorneys

By Amy Williams

Above right: UT Law students participate in mentoring training. Above: Dr. Lillian Eby, professor of psychology at The University of Georgia, leads students in mentoring training.



The UT Law mentoring program matches students with professionals in the legal community who volunteer to meet with students at least twice per semester. Students and mentors may interact as often as they choose in a variety of formats—from face-to-face meetings to email and social media correspondence.

Anyone interested in becoming a mentor may visit law.utk.edu/mentoring or call Brad Morgan, mentoring coordinator, at 865-974-2492 or email rmorgan2@utk.edu.



Well-Versed Lawyers

By Meredith McGroarty

It's difficult—not to mention a bit disconcerting—to imagine Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito rocking out to “The Promised Land” at Asbury Park or his colleague Antonin Scalia smoking cigarettes while listening to *Blood on the Tracks* on constant repeat in the small hours of the morning. Yet, according to UT law professor Alex Long, law professionals—from Supreme Court justices to small-town attorneys—have integrated popular music and song lyrics into many judicial decisions and legal writings. How this tactic can bolster or detract from an argument—as well as what the popularity of certain genres and musicians can tell us about the people in the legal profession—are the core of Long's recent research.

“I think sometimes lawyers and judges are trying to make connections between lyrics and facts in a case that are just a real stretch,” Long says. “I found an example in which the judge goes to extraordinary lengths to work in Pink Floyd's ‘Another Brick in the Wall,’ and you read it and think, ‘I don't need this sort of explanation; I don't need this sort of connection.’”

Long freely admits to disliking Pink Floyd and thus “probably thinking less” of an argument that used the band's lyrics to make a point. This brings up another pitfall of using music in legal writing: the wide variety of personal reactions that people have to music and musicians.

“I think there's a risk when you quote any particular artist because the artist's identity may trample the mean-

Using popular material to drive home a point in the courtroom or put an artistic flourish on a written opinion is not a new practice. Lawyers have quoted the Bible for centuries, and other works, like Gilbert and Sullivan musicals, have been cited in legal papers.

Long published papers in the *Fordham Urban Law* and *Washington and Lee Law Review* journals about the use of song lyrics in legal writing, including cases and scholarly articles. Sometimes songs are used to inject life or humor into an otherwise dry document; sometimes they are more self-serving, inserted to demonstrate that despite being a member of a profession that is synonymous with “bland,” this attorney isn't at all like the stereotype (no, really!). However, occasionally a judge or lawyer will try to make a point with a lyric that just falls completely flat, Long says.

Some notable examples he discovered were a judge's opinion that was meant to be sung to the tune of a LeAnn Rimes song and an uncomfortable incident in which a judge had to explain a Ludacris song to a court reporter who had confused her homonyms and peppered the transcript with the word “hoe.”

ing the judge or lawyer is trying to convey, or the reader may just be put off by the identity of the songwriter in a way that detracts from the message,” Long says. He declines to even speculate on what would happen if he came across an article quoting Phil Collins. (However, Long acknowledges that others might have a similar reaction to the references he often makes to Guided By Voices, one of his favorite bands).

Music for the Masses?

Bob Dylan, Long says, is by far the most popular songwriter among lawyers and judges, cited 186 times in court filings and law journals. Dylan far surpassed the second most popular source, the Beatles, who appeared seventy-four times. Other favorites include Bruce Springsteen, Paul Simon, and Johnny Cash (there was a disappointing, though not surprising, lack of love for Elvis Presley in the works that Long reviewed). Many of the top musicians are or were folk singers; in contrast, rap and country artists (Cash being the exception) turned up rarely.

A few general characteristics about the legal profession can be inferred from these findings. One is that most lawyers and judges came of age in the 1960s and

1970s, which, given overall population demographics, is to be expected. Another is that they are most likely white and male. This, too, is correct: according to the

American Bar Association, in 2004, 73 percent of attorneys were male and 88.8 percent were non-Hispanic white. Such a relatively homogenous group inevitably draws upon the same store of cultural references.

Dylan’s popularity among this demographic is obvious, Long says. “Dylan was the spokesperson for a movement that happened during the youth of many of today’s lawyers and judges, so he’s the first person they think of....Dylan is also a good storyteller, and lawyers are natural storytellers. Dylan is talking about concepts everyone can relate to—justice and fairness—that lend themselves to the law.”

However, the overwhelming preference for folk over country and rap indicates that lawyers and judges may hail from a background different from that of most Americans, particularly most of the criminals they represent, prosecute, or judge.

Folk music, Long says, started out as populist, but it soon became the domain of middle- and upper-class intellectuals, with some of its most famous songwriters (for example, Paul Simon and Pete Seeger) coming from these social classes. Arguably, many folk singers are educated, talented storytellers in general, making their lyrics stand out from the rest in terms of quality. Also, folk songs often praise the universal ideal of justice, whereas country and rap songs often speak to the emotions and situations of specific groups of people.

Long says this difference between these genres of music underscores an important disparity in the legal profession. While everyone can comprehend the concepts of justice and fairness in theory, lawyers and judges may not really be able to understand them in relation to people in situations different from their own.

Alito, for example, stated at his Senate confirmation hearing that he’s a Springsteen fan. Senator Richard Durbin then pointed out a judicial ruling of Alito’s— a decision regarding the trial of a black man by an all-white jury—that he felt ran counter to Springsteen’s central ethos of fairness. Thus, while the ideals of Springsteen, Cash, and folk singers may represent something for lawyers to aspire to, it’s not clear if they are putting the spirit of their songs into action.

Regardless, Long says the fact that Supreme Court justices are inserting song lyrics into their writing implies that it’s becoming an acceptable practice. He’s interested to see which songwriters the coming generations of lawyers and judges will favor. Will the legal records of the future contain references to R.E.M. and Drive-By Truckers, or will Britney Spears and Justin Bieber dominate?

“Only time will tell.”—Rock supergroup Asia (1982)

**This article reprinted with permission of UT Creative Communications. It originally appeared in the spring 2012 issue of Quest magazine.*



Professor Alex Long with some of the gold records in the College of Law’s collection in the Law Library Rare Books room. Long says that song lyrics often show up in legal papers and opinions.

By R.G. Smithson

Farewell

Joe King and his students reflect on four decades at UT Law

to the (Professor) King



Above: Professor Joe King counsels students at UT Law during the 1970s. At right: Professor King is retiring after nearly forty years of service at UT Law.

Joe King has always been captivated by both law and medicine. “Maybe,” he muses, “if I had not become a lawyer, medicine would have been a good choice.”

“I had a great uncle who was a doctor,” King says. “He would visit our house in the afternoons after he made house calls, and I would listen with rapt attention as he would share his insights into medical issues. I have been fascinated by medical science and have found it much more accessible to a lay person than you might imagine.”

As an undergraduate at Penn State University in the early 1960s, most of his work was in the humanities. Thus, the study of law won out. After a tour with the United States Army, he enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, graduating in 1970.

After practicing for three years with a large Philadelphia law firm, King decided academia might be the best fit. “Even before law school I enjoyed teaching—conveying information and probing for insights,” he says. “So, in the back of my mind, I always wanted to teach someday.”

He talked with a number of law schools during his search, including the University of Tennessee. “Tennessee was one that I liked from the very beginning,” King says. “The first person I spoke with was Dean Ken Penegar. I liked him and every member of the faculty that I met. They were all kind and welcoming. I got the sense that this was a growing, dynamic place. We received an offer, accepted, and have been here ever since.”

King’s thirty-nine-year tenure at Tennessee, however, is about to change. The professor that UT Law Dean Doug Blaze calls “the heart and soul of the law school” has announced that spring 2012 will be his last semester as a full-time faculty member.

A Teacher Above All Else

King doesn’t practice privately or consult, choosing instead to concentrate on teaching his students and engaging in legal scholarship, primarily in the areas of torts and, not surprisingly, medical issues.

“He is the consummate teacher,” Blaze said. “He is an incredible teacher, and at the same time, one of the most influential scholars we’ve ever had at the College of Law. But first and foremost, he is a teacher. He cares about his students, and he cares about their success after they leave.”

Current 3L Daniel Barnes is more interested in criminal law than torts, but he took King’s law and medicine seminar last fall because he came highly recommended. “My uncle (Tom Miner, LAW ’77) told me he had Professor King when he was in law school



here, and he loved him. That was good enough for me.”

Barnes also had King for torts as a 1L. “He made torts interesting and easy to understand. He seemed to have the *Restatement of Torts* memorized so you never questioned his knowledge. And he was easy to get to and talk to when you needed help. He is just a great all-round professor.”

Lela Young (LAW ’96) remembers her encounter with King on the first day of orientation in 1993.

“I was a baby law student, and Professor King was my assigned faculty member for the first session,” says Young, who is now an assistant general counsel at UT. Not really knowing where to go or what to do, Young arrived two hours early.

“When Professor King walked in the first thing he asked was, ‘Who was the first person here?’ I almost didn’t admit I was first because I knew it would be embarrassing, but everyone was looking at me. So I admitted it was me. He said, ‘Good, you are going to do well here. Keep it up.’”

Young remembers King’s classroom style as a “combination of comedy, kinetics, and embarrassment that made it a class nobody wanted to skip.”

“Professor King would pretend to be a client calling you up for advice, and he would hold his hand to his ear like he was talking on the phone,” Young recalls, “and he would make you do the same thing. His classes were amazing.”

King's torts classes are legendary. "He has a lesson he calls 'outrageous torts,' and he has this amazing gift for frightening the whole class when he shouts 'outrageous!'" Young says. "Everyone who has ever had Professor King knows what it means

when you say 'outrageous!' That's all you have to say."

For King it has always been about the students.

"The students are a joy to teach," he says. "Never in all these years have I had a class that I didn't admire and like. Every class is different and it seems

that every one just keeps getting better. What more could a person ask for?"

New Challenges Ahead

King's plans for the future are unclear. Though he says he might take a semester or two off and "recharge," the noted authority on torts and medical issues also is considering reading and writing in other areas as well as the law. "I will probably continue with my legal scholarship because it will be hard to separate myself from that," he said.

His wife, Diane, a middle school math teacher, also is retiring at the end of the current school year. The couple would like to travel and spend more time with their three grown children.

"It will take some getting used to," King says of retirement. "I remarked to someone just the other day, 'I'm almost looking forward to the challenge of boredom.'"



Above: Professor King in his office.
At right: Professor King with his book, "The Law of Medical Malpractice in a Nutshell."



FORTY YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP & HONORS

Professor Joe King's research interests include torts, especially relating to the standard of care, causation, and defamation; medical malpractice; worker's compensation; and social security disability. He is the author of *The Law of Medical Malpractice in a Nutshell*, and his writings have been published in the law reviews of Alabama, American University, Washington and Lee, Southern Methodist, Cincinnati, William & Mary, Hofstra, Wake Forest, Oklahoma, Memphis,

Baylor, Houston, Tennessee, Ohio State, Kentucky, Pepperdine, Utah, Vanderbilt, and University of Pennsylvania, as well as in the Yale and Duke law journals.

His articles have been cited in more than a hundred cases, including decisions by the British House of Lords and the Canadian Supreme Court. King has lectured to healthcare providers and to veterinarians on professional liability. His lectures have included a presentation at a conference sponsored by Harvard Medical School.

King has twice received the Harold C. Warner Outstanding Teacher Award, has received the W. Allen Separk Outstanding Teacher Award, and has been honored with the Carden Award for Outstanding Service, the Carden Award for Outstanding Scholarship, and the W. Allen Separk Faculty Scholarship Award.

Faculty Notes

The College of Law co-sponsored a symposium at the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center on "Animals, Ethics, and Law." Commentators from the College of Law included **Professors Iris Goodwin, Joan Heminway, and Dean Rivkin. Professor Michelle Kwon** moderated one of the paper panels.

Professor Emeritus Fran Ansley spoke at Duke University at the conference "Acting Across Borders: The Future of the Feminist 1970s, A Celebration of the Meredith Tax Papers" at Duke. She also spoke at the University of North Carolina School of Law's sixteenth annual Conference on Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity, participating in the panel "Intersections: Understanding Class." Also, a book containing a chapter by Ansley was published this spring. The book is called *Transforming Places: Lessons from Appalachia*, and Ansley's chapter is entitled "Talking Union in Two Languages: Labor Rights and Immigrant Workers in East Tennessee." Ansley also spoke at the eighth National Low-Income Immigrant Rights Conference.

Professor Ben Barton's article, "Triaging Appointed-Counsel Funding and Pro Se Access to Justice," has been accepted for publication by the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. Barton's manuscript, "An Empirical Study of Supreme Court Justice Pre-Appointment Experience," was noted in the Washington Post and in the Wall Street Journal blog. In addition, a Swedish academic publication called *Neo* invited Barton to update his recent article on Harry Potter and libertarianism, which it then translated into Swedish.

A new casebook on criminal law, entitled *Tennessee Criminal Law: Cases and Materials* and co-authored by **Dean Doug Blaze** and former **Visiting Professor Wes Oliver**, has just been published in print and electronic versions.

Professor Wendy Bach gave a presentation at a workshop at Emory Law School, on the topic of "Welfare, Privatization and Democratic Citizenship." She also spoke at the University of Baltimore's Feminist Legal Theory Conference, discussing "Rights, Mobilization and Poverty Law: Seeking Participatory Democracy Amongst the Ashes of the War on Poverty."

Professor Robert Blitt's article, "Russia's 'Orthodox' Foreign Policy: The Growing Influence of the Russian Orthodox Church in Shaping Russia's Policies Abroad," was published in the *University of Pennsylvania Journal of*

International Law. In addition, his article, "Whither Secular Bear: The Russian Orthodox Church's Strengthening Influence on Russia's Domestic and Foreign Policy," will be published in *Fides et Libertas*. Blitt spoke at the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting, addressing developments related to entrenching an international norm prohibiting "defamation" of religion. Articles from the panel will be published in a forthcoming volume of the *Case Western Reserve Law Review*.

Associate Dean Scott Childs is the co-author of a new book, *Federal Legal Research*, published by Carolina Academic Press. Childs authored the chapter "Researching Administrative Law."

Professor Judy Cornett's article, "Contested Elections as Secret Weapon: Legislative Control over Judicial Decisionmaking," co-authored with Matthew R. Lyon, was published in the *Albany Law Review*. Another article by Cornett and Lyon, "Redefining Summary Judgment by Stealth: The Legislative History of Tennessee Code Annotated Section 20-16-101," was published in the *Tennessee Journal of Law and Public Policy*.

Professor Iris Goodwin spoke at Villanova Law School, on the subject, "Why Civil Law Countries Might Forego the Individual Trustee: Provocative Insights from the New-to-the-Fold." Goodwin's paper will appear as a chapter in the volume, *The Worlds of the Trust*, to be published by Cambridge University Press.

An article by **Professor Joan Heminway**, "Reframing and Reforming the Securities and Exchange Commission: Lessons from Literature on Change Leadership," has been selected as one of the best securities law articles of 2011. As a result, the article, which originally appeared in the *Villanova Law Review*, will be reprinted in the *Securities Law Review*. This is the second time that an article by Heminway has been selected for this honor. At this year's Association of American Law Schools annual meeting, Heminway became chair of the new Section on Transactional Law and Skills and moderated its program, "Transactional Law and Skills: Moving Forward." Heminway was also elected chair-elect of the Section on Business Associations.

Professor Jennifer Hendricks was invited to travel to Pune, India, to speak about the Indian-US surrogacy industry at the International Conference on Feminism and the Law. She also spoke at the Feminist Legal The-

Faculty Notes

ory Collaborative Research Network Conference in Washington, DC, and at the University of Maryland College of Law's Legal Theory Workshop.

Professor Amy Hess spoke at a symposium sponsored by the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel Foundation. She also spoke at the Fall Council of the ABA Real Property, Trust and Estate Section.

Professor Becky Jacobs published an article, entitled "The Girl from Ipanema at Risk: Women's Health and the Physical Environment," in the journal *Diversitates*. She also spoke at the University of Zululand in Richards Bay, South Africa.

Professor George Kunev's article, "Stern v. Marshall: A Likely Return to the Bankruptcy Act's Summary/Pleinary Distinction in Article III Terms," was published in the *Norton Journal of Bankruptcy Law and Practice*.

Professor Michelle Kwon's article, "Scratching Our Heads Over Cooper v. Commissioner," was published by *Tax Analysts*.

Professor Don Leatherman spoke at the American Bar Association Tax Section's recent meeting in Denver, Colorado. He participated in a panel for the Practising Law Institute reviewing current developments for consolidated groups. Leatherman also recently led a CLE program on S corporation taxation for the accounting firm Dixon Hughes Goodman. In addition, he spoke as part of an ABA teleconference on Consolidated Tax Return Basics.

Professor Alex Long published "The Freewheelin' Judiciary: A Bob Dylan Anthology," which appeared in the *Fordham Urban Law Journal*. He also published "Employment Retaliation and the Accident of Text" in the *Oregon Law Review*. Long's article, "Professionalism and Matthew Shardlake," appeared recently in the *UCLA Law Review Discourse*, UCLA's online journal.

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam appointed **Professor Bob Lloyd** to the Commission on Uniform Legislation. By virtue of this appointment, Lloyd becomes a member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, the body that sponsors, among other things, the Uniform Commercial Code.

Professor Karla McKanders, who is serving as a Fulbright Lecturer in Morocco during this academic year, gave a conference presentation in Agadir, Morocco. McKanders spoke on the topic of "Trafficking of Nigerian Women through Morocco" at a conference on women and migration.

Professor Glenn Reynolds's co-authored article, "A Due Process Right to Record the Police," has been accepted by the *Washington University Law Review* for its print journal and its online publication, *Commentaries*. He also has agreed to write a book for Encounter Books, tentatively entitled *Giant Sucking Sound: The Higher Education Bubble and Employment in America*. Reynolds spoke to the Cayman Financial Review Board regarding the Internet, education, and the global economy. He also published three articles in *Popular Mechanics* and another in the *Washington Examiner*.

Professor Dean Rivkin participated in the Association of American Law Schools Bellow Scholars and Clinical Law Review Writer's Workshop at New York University Law School. Rivkin's co-authored article, "How IDEA Fails Families Without Means: Causes And Corrections From The Frontlines of Special Education Lawyering," has been published in the *American University Washington College of Law Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law*. His article, "Truancy Prosecutions of Students and the Right [To] Education," was published in the *Duke Law School Forum for Law & Social Change*.

Professor Paula Schaefer was an invited presenter at the Association of American Law Schools Workshop on the Future of the Legal Profession and Legal Education—Changes in Law Practice: Implications for Legal Education. Her presentation was entitled, "Teaching E-Discovery with Technology (On a Professor's Budget)."

Associate Dean Greg Stein spoke recently at Georgetown Law School, addressing "Penn Central Issues: Palazzolo and Reasonable Investment-Backed Expectations." He also spoke at the University of Florida College of Law, on the subject, "Palazzolo Ten Years Later." His article, "The Modest Impact of Palazzolo v. Rhode Island," will appear in the *Vermont Law Review* later this year. Stein recently completed his three-year term as a member of the Member Selection Committee of the

American College of Real Estate Lawyers. He also serves on ACREL's Board of Governors.

Professor Maurice Stucke gave two talks recently in Stockholm, Sweden, to the Swedish Competition Authority and the Swedish Competition and Market Law Association. A chapter by Stucke, entitled "Are People Self-Interested? The Implications of Behavioral Economics on Competition Policy," was published in the book *More Common Ground for International Competition Law*. Stucke published a co-authored chapter, "Plurality of Political Opinion and the Concentration of the Media," in *General Reports of the XVIIIth Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law*. His chapter, "What is Competition?," was published in the book, *The Goals of Competition Law*. And his chapter, "Discovery in a Global Economy," was published in the book, *International Antitrust Litigation: Conflict of Laws and Coordination*.

Stucke's article, "Crony Capitalism and Antitrust," was accepted for publication in the *CPI Antitrust Chronicle*. His article, "Is Intent Relevant?," will be published later this year in the *Journal of Law, Economics & Policy*. And his article, "Reconsidering Antitrust's Goals," has been placed on the shortlist for the 2012 Antitrust Writing Awards in the General Antitrust category.

At the January meeting of the Association of American Law Schools, **Professor Kris Tobin** was elected to the Executive Committee of the Section on Admiralty and Maritime Law. Tobin will serve as Section Chair in 2014.

Professor Penny White served as a faculty member for the Trial Advocacy Workshop at Harvard Law School. She has taught in this program since 1998. She delivered a keynote address on "Recusal Reform" at the Indiana Law Review symposium "Reflecting on Forty Years of Merit Selection." White was one of three featured speakers at the Harvard Law Review annual symposium addressing the topic "Can Accountability Be Balanced with Independence?" In addition, the ABA named White to its working group on A Civil Right to Counsel.



UT LAW FACULTY TOPS SSRN DOWNLOADS

The University of Tennessee College of Law is ranked twenty-eighth among world law schools in regards to total new downloads of papers during the last twelve months at the Social Science Research Network.

SSRN is a website that promotes scholarship in economics, finance, accounting, management, and law. Users of the site are professors and researchers at institutions around the world.

Readers have downloaded papers authored by UT faculty members 22,456 times during the year that ended March 1, 2012. When the rankings are sorted by new downloads per paper, which adjusts for the fact that UT has a smaller faculty than all of the higher ranked schools, UT is ranked in a tie for third, at ninety-two downloads per new paper.

Academic papers can be posted to SSRN by the author. Many scholarly papers are published to SSRN and similar sites before being submitted to academic journals, which can be beneficial because it allows the authors to gather comments that can be incorporated into their papers before they are published in journals. It also allows widespread dissemination of scholarly papers before they are published in journals that have restricted access.

"Overall, we rank twenty-eighth—and tenth among public law schools—in total new downloads," said Gregory M. Stein, associate dean for faculty development and the Woolf, McClane, Bright, Allen & Carpenter Distinguished Professor of Law. "But UT is far smaller than any of the schools ranked ahead of us. When you examine the downloads on a per-paper basis, we are at the top of the list."

Congratulations to the twenty-eight UT College of Law faculty members who have posted their papers to SSRN.

Lambda Law Society hosts “License to Bully” panel

The Lambda Law Society hosted a panel on February 23 concerning proposed legislation in Tennessee that would protect anti-gay student bullies in the name of religious freedom.

Entitled “Does Religion Provide a ‘License to Bully’? Exploring the Intersection of Tennessee’s Proposed Legislation, Religious Freedom, and the State’s Obligation to Protect Children,” the panel highlighted a recent bill drafted by two members of the Tennessee General Assembly that would prevent the punishment—under anti-bullying policies—of students who harass other students whom they perceive to be gay or lesbian.

The expert panel featured Professors Robert Blitt and Michael Higdon, 2L and OUTReach graduate assistant Jesse Ford, and Ben Byers of the Tennessee Equality Project.

Panel members discussed the use of religious freedom as a justification for discrimination, the damage that bullying does to children, and the need to protect Tennessee’s youth from hostile school environments.



Former AG talks American Dream

Alberto Gonzales, former US Attorney General under President George W. Bush, visited UT Law on February 22. Gonzales, who is now Of Counsel with Waller Lansden Dorch & Davis in Nashville, discussed his tenure with the Bush administration, his road to judiciary, and offered advice to students.

Waller Lansden sponsored the visit, which also included a reception with members of the Hispanic community. Gonzales was recently named the Doyle Rogers Distinguished Chair of Law at Belmont University in Nashville. He began teaching full time there in January.

Watch a highlight reel of the visit, view his entire public speech, and access news coverage of the event, please visit utk.edu/go/index.php.



Above left: Alberto Gonzales addressed a packed room during his public talk at UT Law this spring. Right: Gonzales met with students and other members of the Hispanic community at a February 21 reception.



“Inside Washington” forum draws crowd

Two College of Law alumni with broad experience inside the Beltway visited the College of Law on March 14 to share their experiences. Chuck Fleischmann and Jo-Marie St. Martin gave attendees a glimpse “Inside Washington.”

Fleischmann is a member of the US House of Representatives and St. Martin is general counsel and director of legislative operations for the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, John Boehner.

Fleischmann, who received his law degree in 1986, is a Republican who represents the eleven counties that make up the Third District of Tennessee. Before being elected to Congress, he ran a business in Chattanooga.

In her role, St. Martin, who received her law degree in 1985, develops and implements legislative plans for the House of Representatives. She was selected as a John C. Stennis Congressional Staff Fellow for the 110th Congress after being nominated by Speaker Boehner.

In addition to discussing the specifics of her roles in Washington, St. Martin encouraged law students to realize the value of their education, saying, “It’s a big world out there. Even if you never do one thing that is related to legal (issues), you will use this education for the rest of your life.”

Above left: Jo-Marie St. Martin speaks at the College of Law in March. She was joined by Congressman Chuck Fleischmann (at right).



SUMMERS WYATT SYMPOSIUM TACKLES CURRENT AFFAIRS

The College of Law Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution and the Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy recently hosted the 2012 Summers-Wyatt Symposium—“Crises, Coverage, and Communication: Advocacy in a 24/7 News World.”

The symposium featured lawyers, journalists, and communication experts who addressed the topic of legal advocacy as well as legal and journalism ethics in the world of 24/7 news coverage. Speakers with legal, media, and public relations backgrounds shared their personal and professional experiences related to media coverage of legal proceedings.

Speakers included Pamela Mackey (pictured at left), who represented NBA player Kobe Bryant; Joseph Cheshire, who defended the Duke Lacrosse case; John Seigenthaler, who founded *USA Today* and the First Amendment Center; former CNN anchor and White House and Capitol Hill correspondent Joie Chen; President and CEO of the Freedom Forum James Duff; ABA Legal Affairs writer Mark Curriden; and Al Tompkins, senior faculty member at the Poynter Institute.

Cara Rains wins 2012 Advocacy Idol

Twenty-four first-year UT law students participated in the fifth annual Advocacy Idol Competition on March 27. With the help of their second- and third-year law student coaches, the Idol participants prepared a five-minute opening statement in the second-degree murder case of *State of Rockytop v. Bobby "Rambo" Edwards*.

Panels of judges from various courts across Tennessee, as well as Michael Galligan, sponsor of the competition, selected the top six advocates: Willie Santana, Nathaniel Greene, Will Brewer, Sarah Watson, Hector Sanchez,

and Cara Rains. The six finalists were coached by Holly Lusk, Austin Purvis, Alexander Waters, Michael Tabler, Dani Bryson and Warren Korges, respectively.

After a final round, the *en banc* panel of nine judges, the Honorable Norma Ogle presiding, named Rains the 2012 Advocacy Idol. Sanchez placed second, and Brewer and Watson tied for third place.

All of the advocates demonstrated skill in organization, delivery, and substantive technique in giving their opening statements—showing great promise as future advocates. These first-year students, their coaches, and the student bailiffs are to be commended for an enjoyable and successful competition.

Winners of the 2012 Advocacy Idol were (from left) Cara Rains, Hector Sanchez, Sarah Watson, and Will Brewer.



CLAYTON CENTER TECHNOLOGY AND LAW CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

The Clayton Center for Entrepreneurial Law and the Sports and Entertainment Law Society recently co-presented the conference, "Metamorphosis: How Technology is Reshaping Entertainment."

Presenters at the March 31 conference included numerous nationally recognized judges and lawyers in the field, including UT alumnus Joel Katz (pictured at right) and Ninth Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski, along with UT participants Professor Glenn Reynolds and Visiting Professor Jenny Sheridan. The conference was organized and supported by Professor George Kuney and Micki Fox.



Blackshear Gala raises record amount for scholarship

The twelfth annual Julian Blackshear Scholarship Gala took place on March 31 with keynote speaker Judge Bernice Donald, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Judge Donald was formerly a judge for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee. She was the first African American woman in the history of the United States to serve as a bankruptcy judge.

The College of Law presented Carla Fox (LAW '91) and Melvin Malone (LAW '89) with the R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr. Award in recognition of their extraordinary efforts to advance the causes of equality and justice. The award is named after the college's first African American graduate. Julian Blackshear and his children, Jeffery and Lillian, were in attendance.

The gala raised more than \$15,000 for the scholarship and had the largest attendance yet. Supporting sponsors were Merchant and Gould, PC, and Pilot Corporation. Table sponsors included Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC; Bass Berry & Sims PLC; Boston, Holt, Sockwell & Durham, PLLC; Butler Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC; Charles H. Miller Legal Clinic; the Family of R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr.; Knoxville Jewish Alliance; Kramer Rayson LLP; Lewis, King, Krieg & Waldrop, P.C.; London & Amburn, P.C.; Miller and Martin PLLC; Sherrard & Roe, PLC; Student



Bar Association; Ursula Bailey and Mark Brown; Williams Teusink LLC.

The Julian Blackshear Scholarship enables the College of Law to recruit and retain many of its best and brightest students. These students come from diverse backgrounds and add their perspectives and experiences to the classroom as well as the law community. Twenty-nine percent of the fall 2011 entering class were students of color. The Blackshear Scholarship plays an ever-increasing role in expanding student diversity.

Top right: Alumni and friends visit during the Blackshear Gala. Middle right: Julian Blackshear and his daughter, Lillian (right), with students. At left: Carla Fox was a co-winner of the R.B.J. Campbelle, Jr. award presented by Dean Doug Blaze.



By Rebecca Laurenzana

Alumnus finds his life's
passion in play

the TOY MAKER

Jeremy Padawer (LAW '99) admits it didn't take long for him to realize that his law school experience might not turn out exactly as he hoped.

"The storybook scenario is to be in the top 10 percent of the class and be completely passionate about the law," he says. "For me, that was a fairy tale."

However, the self-professed "average law student" now knows a thing or two about turning fairy tales into reality. Just tune into Nickelodeon's NickToons to catch *Monsuno*, an animated children's show that Padawer executive produces and co-created. The series and its toy line are slated to launch in more than fifty countries by the end of 2012.

The *Monsumo* cartoon and toys are a global effort between Nickelodeon, Topps, Michael Eisner, Fremantle Media, and leading toy design and marketing company JAKKS Pacific—where Padawer works as executive vice president of marketing and entertainment brand development.

This kind of success, however, seemed like a far-off dream when Padawer was confronted with a school full of intelligent and dedicated classmates and his own mounting debt.

“I found myself a little desperate to be great at something and even more concerned about cash,” Padawer says. His answer to both conundrums was to explore a side business online. “I resigned myself to being an average law student, an above-average entrepreneur, and a way below-average sleeper. I averaged about five hours a night.”

A (NEARLY) OVERNIGHT, ONLINE SUCCESS

Padawer devoted his days to law and his nights to learning HTML coding. He eventually developed a series of websites where consumers could buy and sell collectible items. As a child, Padawer loved anything considered collectible—autographs, sports memorabilia, toys, coins, and stamps.

“I focused my online efforts on the subjects I knew and loved—collectibles, toys, and the concept of buying and selling on a secondary market,” he says.

By combining a lifelong love with a business venture, Padawer had half the formula. The other half involved playing the system of a young search engine called Yahoo!.

“Yahoo! was nothing more than a phone book,” he recalls. “It was an alphabetical search engine. I named all of my websites with two A’s—AAbsolute Beanie Babies and AAbsolute Furbies. I treated the Internet like a phone book, and as a result, 20,000 unique visitors per day enjoyed the sites.”

Both passion and the motivation to pay off law school debt fueled his effort to create one of the most successful networks of collectibles online. By early 1997, only eight months after beginning his entrepreneurial ventures, Padawer was debt free with a thriving business.

Padawer took some of the money from his early Internet interests and bought generic domain names. The sale of Padawer’s act.com domain to Symantec in 2000 still stands as one of the largest domain name sales in the history of the Internet.

“If you can sleep a few less hours and create value then that is amazing,” he says.

He’s confident that his success can be replicated with good old-fashioned hard work. “I had good timing, but you can, too. It’s never too late. Minimize your debt. Work at night. Bust your ass. Be a little haggard. Enjoy it later.”

TINKERING WITH THE TOY MAKER

Law school was not the last stop on the educational road for Padawer, who went on to earn his MBA at Vanderbilt University in 2001.

After Vanderbilt, he was recruited as a brand manager at Mattel, the world’s largest toy manufacturer. Geoff Walker, the general manager at Mattel Europe, noticed Padawer’s potential and hired him out of Vanderbilt’s MBA program to work in the entertainment business at Mattel Toys.

“His critical thought process, legal perspective on business decisions, entrepreneurial spirit, and sheer love for toys and collectibles separated Jeremy from other employees,” says Walker.

In 2003, Padawer was recruited to JAKKS Pacific to head up Entertainment Brands. In six years, Padawer’s divisional sales increased by more than 500 percent,



as he managed and acquired WWE, Pokémon, Dragonball, Marvel, and key Disney boys' brand licenses. He was promoted to head all divisions of JAKKS Pacific in January 2010 as the executive vice president of Boys, Girls, Consumer Electronics, and Innovation brands as well as taking the reigns as executive producer of all new entertainment.

"JAKKS has always been focused on the intellectual property of major studios," Padawer says. "It's a blessing and a curse. The blessing is that you ride the wave of great IP, as long as you know how to pick appropriately. The curse is that you own nothing more than a categorical right to manufacture."

A MERCHANDISING MONSOON

Padawer proposed in late 2008 to revolutionize JAKKS with fully developed entertainment franchises. Late that year, Padawer co-created *Monsuno* with a simple concept. "We wanted to pair a great theme with an innovative, highly-demonstrable play pattern and engage the greatest creative minds in the industry to bring it to life. I wanted to attack entertainment from a different angle, by leading with a great toy idea and then owning the franchise."

The theme? Monsters.

The play pattern? Monsters that spring out of holsters when spun, transforming magically in mid-air and landing battle-ready.

The creative minds? Fremantle Media, Michael Eisner, Topps, and a team of excellent writers.

Monsuno brings to life a dream-like world where the power to control beasts and monsters lies in the hands of children. Buy-in from the toy and cartoon giants suggests that the entity will resonate with young children, who are already watching the show in the United States.

Sander Schwartz, president of Kids and Family Entertainment at Fremantle Media and former chairman of Warner Brothers animation, contributes Padawer's success with *Monsuno* and other ventures to his strong business sense and educational background.



"Jeremy exhibits a unique combination of intelligence, education, charm, and personality," says Schwartz, who works with Padawer on *Monsuno*.

Padawer could be considered a renaissance man. He thinks of education as only being one piece of the puzzle in building a successful career and future. Jared Wolfson, JAKKS Pacific marketing director, co-creator of *Monsuno*, and producer of kid's entertainment, agrees, crediting Padawer's confidence, respect, and trust to his success in the business world and beyond.

During the past five years, Wolfson has traveled the world with Padawer and fondly recalls him greeting everyone he met with a hug—including a group of conservative Japanese business people. "Although, often the nontraditional approach, it is always memorable and leaves a positive lasting impression, especially

when coupled with his incredible knack for building both business relationships and meaningful friendships," Wolfson says. "Jeremy's passion and enthusiasm is an inspiration to many. People want to work with Jeremy."

Following his heart has lead Padawer, the "average" law student, to accomplish his dreams.

"When I walk in my office in Malibu and look around this very cool place, it looks like my room as a kid," Padawer says. "There are toys and collectibles everywhere. I guess one big difference would be the wall of windows overlooking the Pacific Ocean."

If Padawer could give one small piece of advice to today's students it would be to follow their passions. "Take risks," he says. "Build a portfolio of expertise. View your law degree as one layer in a multilayered cake. Don't define yourself too quickly in life and when all else fails, just go for it."

— Jeremy Padawer and Tanya G. Brown contributing.

Cary Blancett's father wanted him to be a doctor, not a lawyer, so, the obedient southern boy hunkered down as a pre-med major at Rhodes College. That didn't last long. Blancett (LAW '83) couldn't help but admire the work ethic and quiet determination of his dad, George, a Memphis-based lawyer, and he found himself dreaming of a career in law rather than medicine.

When Blancett mustered up the courage to come clean, he was surprised by his father's response. "I said, 'Look, Dad, I've always wanted to go to law school.'" His father responded with a simple "okay," but added one stipulation—that Blancett study to become a business lawyer.

Blancett has spent his professional career keeping that promise.

Triumphing in Transactions

Alumnus carves niche in contract law at FedEx Ground

By Rebecca Laurenzana



THE ROAD TO FEDEX

Business law was not a heavily populated field in Tennessee when he entered law school. While many law students wanted to be in the courtroom, Blancett wanted to work on the corporate side of law. Prior to entering the College of Law, he had earned his bachelor's degree in business administration through the University of Memphis.

He interned at Baker Donelson in Memphis, ultimately starting his career there after law school. There was just one problem. The firm viewed him as a tax lawyer and placed him accordingly. "It just wasn't something that fascinated me," Blancett says of those early days.

Noticing Blancett's potential in business law, Boston-based firm Hale and Dorr hired him in 1988. Despite making partner at the firm, he longed for the liveliness of Memphis. "I began putting feelers out down there," Blancett says. His wish came true when Federal Express discovered his talents in 1992, hiring him to be part of the business transactions group as a senior attorney.

Ironically, his best friend from high school, Andy Lynn, was practicing law at Federal Express when he was told that they would be interviewing a "hot shot finance lawyer" from Boston by the name of Cary Blancett. Despite being close in high school, the pair had lost touch.

"Cary and I have been working closely together on a variety of international and US transactions and other issues ever since," says Lynn.

REACHING THE TOP RUNG

Henry Maier, executive vice president of strategic planning and communications of FedEx Ground Package Systems, credits Blancett's business savvy to his success at Federal Express. Blancett has continued to climb the corporate ladder in the business transaction group, transitioning to managing attorney in 1993, managing director in 1999, and vice president in 2004.

"We have traveled the world together, visiting international posts," Maier says of Cary. "He might be the best contract/business transactions lawyer in the company."

Blancett has steadily risen to the top of the legal corporate ladder, recently earning a promotion to senior vice president and general counsel of FedEx Ground. In good humor, he admits he has once again been taken out of the South. These days, Memphis-born Blancett wakes up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the home base of FedEx Ground.

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