



NSL NEWS

VOLUME 22

ISSUE 1

SPRING 14

THE TRIBUTE EDITION

THE PATH TO A LEGACY

DEAN JOE C. LOSER, JR.
TO RETIRE IN JUNE



Learn more about Justice Koch, the new dean, on page 3.

Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr. will retire following a nearly 28-year tenure that has advanced the institution into one of the state’s finest law schools. Tennessee Supreme Court Justice and NSL faculty member, Justice William C. Koch, Jr. will become the new dean in July following Dean Loser’s departure.

Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr. has thoughtfully, strategically and steadfastly guided the growth of the school since he took the helm on August 23, 1986. He has overseen the school’s remarkable transformation from a small night school founded more than 100 years ago by four recent graduates of Vanderbilt Law School to one of the most mission-driven and unique law schools in the country.

“The Nashville School of Law has thrived under Dean Loser’s leadership,” said Tom Cone, Board Chair of the Nashville School of Law. “He has fervently dedicated himself to every facet of this school – its reputation, its financial health, its growth, and, most importantly, its students. We are all better for his exceptional tenure, and will commit ourselves to enhancing his legacy in the days, weeks and years to come.”

Dean Loser’s passion for the law and for the institution was imparted by his father, J. Carlton Loser, a Davidson County District Attorney and U.S. Congressman. He also taught criminal law at the school for more than a decade. Dean Loser followed in his father’s footsteps right into the halls of NSL, graduating in 1959. He joined the faculty in 1977 while serving as a judge on the Third Circuit Court for Davidson County and was named dean nine years later.

He had a lot of hard work ahead of him. For many years the school had experienced financial difficulties, cramped classrooms and

Continued on page 4.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Message from the Dean	2
Passing the Torch to Justice William C. Koch, Jr.	3
Faculty Q&A: Eileen Githens	3
Judge Eisenstein Honored	4
2013-2014 Scholarships	5
Alumni News	6
In Memoriam	6
Tribute Timeline	7
Class of 2007 News	9
2013 Winter Graduates	13

FORWARD THINKING



I have seen almost three decades as dean of the Nashville School of Law, and shepherded the school through two relocations required by surging enrollment. I have been privileged to lead the school into the Internet Age, an era that has transformed the way we live our lives – not to mention the laws by which we live them. I have looked on with deep pride and satisfaction as NSL has grown from a school whose students were overwhelmingly from Middle Tennessee to one serving students from four states.

And yet, throughout these decades of significant change and growth, one thing has remained constant: our mission. NSL's commitment to provide the best possible legal education to working men and women so that they may, in turn, serve the people in their communities, is the same as it was when the institution was founded more than 100 years ago.

I am humbled to have been part of this school's utterly unique and irreplaceable legacy. We have become esteemed in legal circles in the same way that our graduates have staked their reputations – through a potent combination of vision, determination and just plain hard work. We have sweated it out together – board, faculty, staff, and, most of all, students. Together, we have stayed true to the mission year after year, even as we have adapted in order to not only keep pace, but set the pace in a legal environment that seems to rewrite itself every week.

This is my school, my home in so many ways. I graduated in 1959 and dedicated myself to its success for most of my adult life. But I am one among many, as I always have been and always will be. That is why, as I announce my retirement in June and prepare to turn over leadership to Justice William C. Koch, Jr., I do so with complete confidence. His commitment to the school is unsurpassed. His determination to see it scale even greater heights is inspiring. He has done great things in his extraordinary legal career, and he will do great things for our school.

And, as Millie and I look forward to retirement, we will nonetheless remain close to “home” - to the school we love and to the many people, from all walks of life, who make it worth loving. We are excited about its future, and eternally grateful for the opportunity to help place that future on a firm foundation.

Sincerely,

Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr.



NSL NEWS

Editorial Staff

Publisher
Joe C. Loser, Jr.

Editor-In-Chief
Virginia Townzen

Managing Editor
Elizabeth McDonald

Editor
Chip Loser

PASSING THE TORCH TO JUSTICE WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR.

Justice William C. Koch, Jr. is a familiar and influential presence in almost every corner of the law school. A longtime and generous instructor, he can be found teaching courses, offering extra help to students, speaking at graduation, mentoring to students and colleagues or reading in the library. But in July 2014, he will take the helm of the entire ship, not merely its disparate parts, when he becomes Nashville School of Law's next dean.

"We are delighted to welcome Justice Koch as our new dean, and know he will build upon Dean Joe Loser's outstanding legacy," said Thomas F. Cone, chairman of the NSL's Board of Trustees. "He is one of Tennessee's most thoughtful and committed judges, and his vast knowledge and experience assure a bright future for our institution."

Justice Koch will bring in-depth knowledge of the school to his new role, having served as a faculty member since 1997. Justice Koch is a renowned judge outside the walls of the school. He has been recognized for excellent legal scholarship and advancing access to justice throughout the State of Tennessee. Justice Koch has served on the Tennessee Supreme Court since 2007, and previously served for 23 years on the Tennessee Court of Appeals where he was the presiding judge of the Middle Section of the Court from 2003-2007. Before his appointment to the appellate court in 1984, Justice Koch was Counsel to Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander and the governor's Commissioner of Personnel. In addition, he served as Deputy Attorney General for the state of Tennessee.



Justice William C. Koch, Jr.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to follow in Dean Loser's exceptional footsteps," said Justice Koch. "My service

Continued on page 12.



FACULTY Q&A: EILEEN GITHENS

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO TEACH AT NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW?

When I began looking for teaching opportunities, I looked first at Nashville School of Law because I believe its students are highly motivated, thus providing an excellent atmosphere in which I can share my knowledge and experience.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE TOP ATTRIBUTES OF A SUCCESSFUL LAWYER?

Integrity. Integrity. Integrity.

WHAT HEALTHCARE TRENDS SHOULD YOUNG LAWYERS BE AWARE OF?

Health care expenditures represent approximately 15 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. These expenditures are expected to increase as the Affordable Care Act continues to be implemented. The federal government will, I believe, emphasize the detection and elimination of health care fraud as a way of reducing costs. The statutes in this area are not intuitive; some actions that would be acceptable and even desirable in other industries would make a health care provider criminally or civilly liable; in some cases, the statutes apply not only to health care providers, but to their children, parents, siblings, and spouses. I feel that all lawyers need to be cognizant of these statutes to ensure that their clients are in compliance with the law.

WHAT SINGLE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING LAWYERS?

Always remember that your legal education and training enhance your ability to help people. The help that you provide to your fellow man will be returned to you many fold.

Eileen Githens recently joined the faculty as a health law instructor. For almost 20 years, she was vice president and chief legal counsel for HCA's Capital Division, where she advised 20 hospitals on legal matters, compliance programs, and physician acquisitions. Previously, she was Pennsylvania's Medicaid Director. She earned her law degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1993 and her undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University in 1978.

tough reviews from bar examiners. There was talk of closing it altogether. Loser immediately instituted positive improvements for every facet of NSL, enlisting support from faculty, alumni and eventually the school's first independent board of directors. Students were so dedicated to the school and its success – and inspired by Dean Loser's vision – that at one point, when the school was in danger of closing, they volunteered to pay higher tuition in the middle of the term to keep its doors open.

Just months after Dean Loser's installation, he spearheaded a name change from the Nashville YMCA Night Law School to Nashville School of Law to reflect the institution's expanded mission from simply a night school to a law school serving the needs of working men and women. At the time, the school rented space from the Downtown YMCA and, as it had since 1911, held its classes in the basement of the building. Just four short years after becoming Dean, Loser initiated a move to a bigger location on Sidco Drive. As a result of the move and Dean Loser's relentless determination to advance the school, enrollment increased by nearly 50 percent during the 14 years at that location.

Dean Loser's vision did not stop there. As a result of booming enrollment and students' ever-increasing technological requirements, the school again moved in 2005 to its current 30,000 square foot campus on Armory Oaks Drive. The new facility features advanced technology, ample classroom and library

space, and easy parking and interstate access. Today, the school boasts nearly 500 enrolled students who travel from across Tennessee and its surrounding states to attend classes, and a competitive tuition and admissions process.

“It takes a special man to rally an entire educational community around a common mission. Joe Loser is that special man.”

– AUBREY HARWELL,
Vice Chairman
NSL Board of Trustees

“Dean Loser not only saved the school from closing, but resurrected it with flair,” said Aubrey Harwell, NSL Board Vice Chairman. “It takes a special man to rally an entire educational community around a common mission. Joe Loser is that special man.”

Prior to his appointment as dean, he served for 20 years as a judge on the Third Circuit Court for Davidson County. Additionally, Dean Loser has served as special judge of the Tennessee Court of Appeals, the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

He also is widely known for his book, *An Outline of the Workers' Compensation Law of Tennessee* (1st through 15th editions) and

has authored hundreds of appellate court opinions, mostly in the field of workers' compensation law. He is a member of many professional organizations, including the American, Tennessee, and Nashville Bar associations and founding member of Harry Phillips American Inn of Court of which he is also a current officer. He is listed in *Who's Who in American Law*, *American Education*, *America and the World*.

Dean Loser will be lauded at this year's 21st annual dinner for his incomparable dedication and extensive contributions to Nashville School of Law. ■

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, June 6, 2014, is the date of the annual recognition dinner, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. Cocktails will be followed by dinner and remarks at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person and tables for 10 are \$1,500 per table for level 1, \$2,500 for level 2, \$5,000 for level 3 and \$10,000 for level 4. The event chair is NSL alumnus Charlie Niewold. Please call (615) 780-2241 for tickets.

JUDGE EISENSTEIN HONORED

Faculty member Judge Daniel B. Eisenstein was honored at the inaugural National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tennessee Vision of Hope Gala on December 7, for his work as a Davidson County Mental Health Court judge. He was lauded for his work on the court, his collaboration with NAMI Tennessee and his advocacy for those living with mental illness.



Ryan and Rachel Hauber,
Jill and Dan Eisenstein,
Robert Eisenstein and Nan Speller



2013 - 2014 SCHOLARSHIPS

NSL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO STANDOUTS

JULIE KUCHENBECKER
*Chief Justice Charles
O'Brien Scholarship*

TIM WILSON
Luther E. Cantrell, Jr. Scholarship
*Judge J.S. "Steve" Daniel and
Suzanne G. Keith Scholarship*

WAYNE SUTTER
W. P. Cooper Scholarship

CARLOS LARA
2013 Cooper Class Scholarship

DAVID BARRY
Judge Charles Gilbert Scholarship

OWEN COMPTON
Paul Holbrook Memorial Scholarship

DERRICK GARNER
*Chancellor Irwin Kilcrease
Memorial Scholarship*
J.G. Lackey, Jr. Scholarship

SHARON MILLING
Judge Harry Lester Scholarship

JAROD MULLINS
J. Carlton Loser Scholarship

ERNIE GILKES
*Nashville Scottish Rite
Bodies Scholarship*

TIFFANI POPE
*Judge Leon Ruben
Memorial Scholarship*

CHRISTIAN CAHILL
*Judge Leon Ruben
Memorial Scholarship*

JASON LIGHT
Clarence Suiter Scholarship

EMILY HARVEY
Tulley Award Recipient

HEATHER MOMCHILOV
*Corynne Brazzell
Arney Scholarship*

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

DOUGLAS T. THIBODEAUX
*Metropolitan Nashville
Police Support Fund*

CHARLES M. VANCE II
*Metropolitan Nashville
Police Support Fund*

DANIEL NEWBERN
*Metropolitan Nashville
Police Support Fund*

MEGHAN BLACKWELL
Turner Family Scholarship

NSL TRUSTEE AND FACULTY SCHOLARSHIPS

CRAIG AMABILE
SHAUNA BALFOUR
BYLINDA BELL
SONIA BOSS
SEANNALYN BRANDMEIR
PHILIP CLARK
MARY COCKE
BRYANT CRUCE
BRITTANY EDMONDSON
BRITTNEY FINN
JEANINE FLOYD
MATTHEW GONEY
RYAN HAGER

EDDIE HERBERT
JOHN ROBERT HILL
PHILIP "ANDY" HILL
ASHLEY JACKSON
DEREK JORDAN
ASHLEY KING
JEFF KUYKENDALL
ROGER LAYNE
KAREN LEWIS
MARTIN LYKINS
THOMAS MARTIN
MATT MEYER
DELSHAD OMER

TAMIKA PARKER
MARK PECKHAM
HOPE REEVES
WILL RIDLEY
FATIMA ROBERTSON
MIKE SANDLER
MARLEN SANTANA-PEREZ
CHASE SMITH
ANDREA STOUT
PAUL TRYON
DONNAVON VASEK
JESSICA YOUNG

ROBERT C. ASHWORTH (2013) joined the law firm of Story, Abernathy, Hood, Campbell & Ashworth in November 2013. His practice specializes in real property law and real estate transactions.

REEN LOCKER BASKIN (2008) is deputy commissioner and chief operating officer for the Tennessee Department of General Services. She is responsible for daily department operations.

JUDGE DONNA SCOTT DAVENPORT (1986) was named by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam to represent the judicial branch in the Three Branches Institute, an initiative of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. The institute brings together members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches to strengthen Tennessee's child protection and juvenile justice systems.

KEVIN KENNEDY (1983) recently taped a television broadcast with Trinity Broadcast Network in Hendersonville to discuss his application of Christian principles as a lawyer and business owner, and in his personal life. Kennedy also has been interviewed by CNN, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and the Oprah Winfrey Show. He is senior attorney at The Kennedy Law Firm, PLLC.

PHILLIP H. MILLER (1978) has been invited to speak on advanced depositions at the Iowa Association for Justice annual convention and the Vermont Trial Lawyers Association conference. He will also present to the D.C. Trial Advocacy Seminar in Washington D.C., lead focus groups at the American Association for Justice's Case Workshop Program in Chicago and present to the New Jersey Trial Lawyers Group in Atlantic City.

NICHOLAS J. PIEROTTI (2013) joined Memphis-based Thomas Family Law Firm, PLC. He works with families concerning probate matters, including wills and estates. Pierotti is a third-generation practicing attorney and holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Mississippi.

JARRON SPRINGER (2006) was named the new chief executive officer of the Greater Nashville Association of Realtors. He began serving in his new position on February 1, 2014.

BRITTANY STEVENS (2013) was sworn in to practice law on October 25, 2013, by fellow NSL grad Judge Donna Scott Davenport (1986) in Rutherford County. Also present were Imogene W. Bolin (1977) and Amy Hennemann (1999). Collectively, they represented four decades of the school's women graduates.



Imogene W. Bolin, Brittany Stevens, Judge Donna Scott Davenport, Amy Hennemann

VINCE WILCOX (2012) was named Coordinator for the 21st Drug Court, Inc., an alternative sentencing program in Williamson, Hickman, Perry and Lewis counties. The court uses a non-adversarial, therapeutic approach to crimes rooted in addiction.

CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Hattie Mae Cantrell
Joe C. Loser, Jr.

In Memory of Okey B. Johnson
Joe C. Loser, Jr.

In Memory of Arnold Lefkowitz
*Mr. and Mrs. John Darwin
Julie and Bob Gordon
Gary Russell Gordon
Phyllis and Ralph Gordon
Rebecca and Brad Gordon
Heidi and John Hassenfeld
Gullett, Sanford, Robinson & Martin
Mary and John McBee
Dr. and Mrs. Lee Moore
Moore, Rader & Fitzpatrick
Julie Officer
Charles A. Sewell
James M. Wolchok*

In Memory of Don Paine
Joe C. Loser, Jr.

In Memory of Jay Stephenson
Jim G. Creecy

In Memory of Hershel Tolbert
Joe C. Loser, Jr.

In Memory of W. Carter Williams, Jr.
Joe C. Loser, Jr.

In Honor of Joe C. Loser, Jr.
Ray Glasgow

In Honor of William C Koch, Jr.
*Ray Glasgow
Douglas Henry*

IN MEMORIAM

James Carl Campbell, Jr.
Class of 1988

Dorothy Champagne Conway
Class of 1981

Thomas M. Hull
Class of 1958

Arnold Eugene Lefkowitz
Class of 1986

Charles Craig Morrow
Class of 1950

John M. Rankin, Jr.
Class of 1968

Jon L. Setzer
Class of 1973

Nashville School of Law: THROUGHOUT

1910s

1911

Morton B. Adams, William P. Cooper, Lee Douglas and Robert Selph Henry, then recent Vanderbilt Law School graduates, open night law classes at YMCA for students unable to attend law classes during the day. Classes are free.

1930s

1931

Albert Arnold Gore graduates while serving as superintendent of schools in Smith County and commuting from Granville for classes. Gore goes on to serve three terms in U.S. Senate.



Lecturers' salaries rise from \$2.50 to \$10 per hour.

Thirty-five graduates, including 6 women, pass bar.

1950s

1955

J.G. Lackey, Jr. becomes dean. A Vanderbilt Law School graduate who had taught Contracts at the school since 1921, he retires in 1985.

1970s

1962

Nashville School of Law admits its first African American student, Irvin Kilcrease, Jr. Kilcrease graduates and goes on to work for Nashville's public defender and U.S. attorney. In 1980, he is appointed a Davidson County Chancellor, making him the first African American to preside over Tennessee Chancery Court. He retires from bench in 2003.

1936

1937

Enrollment reaches 111.

YMCA Law School of Nashville establishes \$50 per year tuition; allowed to issue degrees.

World War II reduces the school to minimal operations; enrollment declines precipitously.

1940 to 1944

1926

Owen Hughes, 1914 graduate and faculty member, is named dean. Continues to teach until 1944. Retires as dean in 1945.

Ferris Clay Bailey, Vanderbilt Law School graduate and longtime instructor, is named dean of the law school; serves until 1955.

1946

School accepts demobilized military personnel who are descending on the campus as a result of the GI bill. Tuition is only \$150.

1927

School awards first Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees.

Majority of the first postwar class graduates; 41 students, all men.

1949

Women students return to the school for the first time since World War II.

Thomas from the become With An he leads campaign of Sidco

1920s

1940s

1960s

T THE YEARS

1977

465 students are enrolled

1960s

1991

NSL purchases space on Sidco Drive, moves to new location.

2010s

Nearly all students work full-time; average age is 27.

2011

The school celebrates 100th anniversary.

Dean Loser establishes independent board of trustees; Tom F. Cone elected chairman.



1993

School attracts students from 138 cities in Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky and Georgia.

2013

650 alumni and friends attended the 20th Annual Recognition Dinner

1994

First Annual Recognition Dinner held at Vanderbilt Stadium Club; 210 alumni and friends of the school attend.

1986

2014

Dean Loser will retire on June 30 after nearly 28 years as dean.

Justice William Koch will be installed in July as the fifth dean of the school.

2005

School moves to current home on Armory Oaks Drive, which is equipped with the most advanced legal educational technologies available.



659 students are enrolled.

1963

172 students are enrolled.

Judge Joe C. Loser, Jr. steps down from the bench to become dean. A 1959 graduate of the school and faculty member, Dean Loser steers the school through two moves, improves the curriculum and dramatically increases enrollment.

Faculty votes to change school's name to Nashville School of Law.

351 students are enrolled.

1964

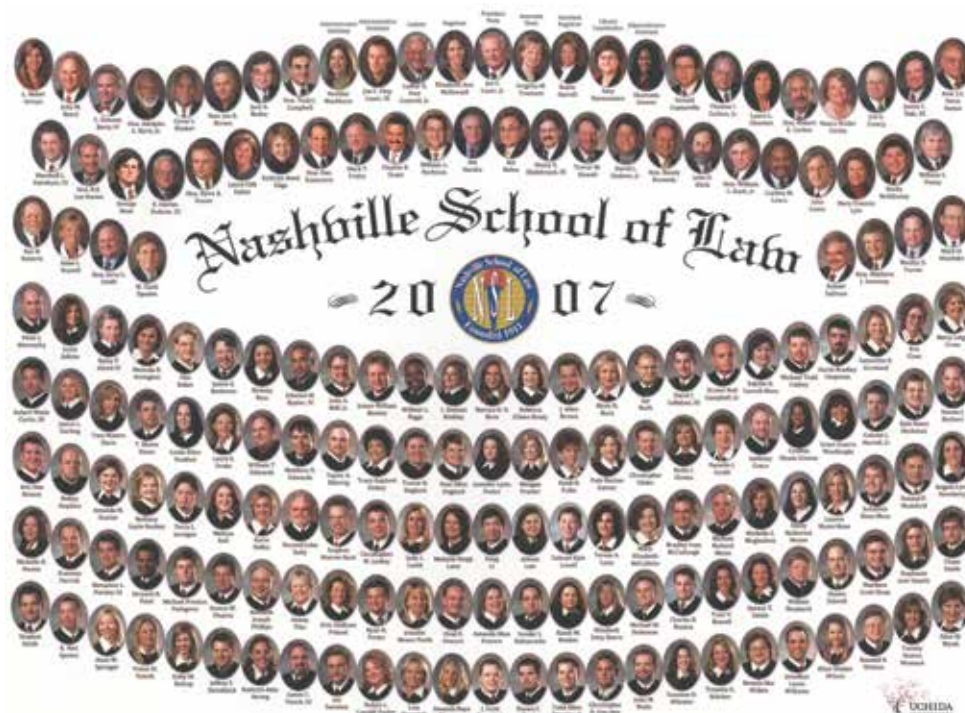
F. Cone, Sr. graduates the school. He will later become chairman of the board. Gregory B. Harwell, Jr., provides a \$1.25 million capital contribution that funds the purchase of the current Sidco Drive location in 1991.

1988

428 students are enrolled.

1980s

2000s



A special thanks to the members of the Class of 2007 for providing their information.

MELINDA R. ARRINGTON has been a Social Security Administration attorney with the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review in Franklin, Tennessee, since 2010. She also is a registered patent attorney.

JAMES W. BEWLEY founded James Bewley Law in Nashville, focusing primarily on legal advertising ethics for personal injury firms and corresponding intellectual properties. He provides counsel for more than 30 marketing law firms regarding trademark implementation and strategies, as well as advertising rules interpretation and guidance. James is in-house counsel for CJ Advertising, a full-service advertising agency for personal injury lawyers across the country. He is a member of the Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar associations; Tennessee Association for Justice; and the American Association for Justice.

JAY G. BUSH is an attorney at Clayton-Little, PLLC in Jackson, Tennessee, where he practices insurance defense litigation, business litigation, wills and estate planning, and collections. He is the chairman of the Madison County Republican Party and is a member of the Howell Edmunds Jackson American Inns of Court and the Jackson-

Madison County Bar Association. Jay was selected for the 2013 Leadership Jackson Class and is a member of Jackson's 2013 Finest Young Professionals.

DAVID J. CALLAHAN, III is a founding member of Callahan Witherington, PLLC, in Nashville, Tennessee, where he focuses on estate planning, estate administration and litigation. His most notable cases include *Estate of Steven L. McNair*, *Estate of Wayne Wise*, and *Cherry v. Commissioner of Revenue*. He is a wills and estates instructor at Nashville School of Law. He was recognized as a future law leader by the *Nashville Post* and a rising star by *Super Lawyers*. He is a board member of Team Chad, a group that helps those affected by leukemia, and one of the founding developers of Team Chad Multisports. David is also a member of American Inn of Courts and Belmont Inn of Court. David is on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and was recognized as its man of the year in 2010.

CAESAR CIRIGLIANO practices criminal, immigration, civil, and bankruptcy law in Nashville.

ROBERT W. CURTIS, III is the sole practitioner at a general law practice that handles both civil and criminal cases in Giles and surrounding counties in Tennessee. He has been on the Giles County Chamber of Commerce board of directors since 2012 and served from 2008-2013 as the president of the Giles County Bar Association. He also is a past member of the Giles County High School Athletic Club Board of Directors. When he isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Leslie, and their two children.

WILLIAM "BILL" EDWARDS is a partner in an active practice in Dyersburg, Tennessee focusing on Chapter 11 bankruptcy business reorganizations. He also focuses on criminal defense, domestic work and wrongful death. He is in the process of publishing his first novel. Bill works with a scout troop of disadvantaged children at the local city mission.

MATTHEW EDWARDS has been a solo practitioner since 2007 in Crossville, Tennessee, where he practices family, criminal and civil law. He is a past president of the Cumberland County Bar Association.

PAUL A. ENGLAND is the sole practitioner at England Law Office in Decaturville, Tennessee. Prior to opening his own practice, he practiced in Nashville with Daniel W. Small & Company and Stites & Harbison, PLLC. He has represented banks in several cases before the United States District Court, western, middle and eastern districts. Paul also represented banks in unreported cases in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a member of the American, Tennessee and Nashville Bar associations. He assists with the SCALES program in Decatur County and is leading a group of students to witness the Supreme Court's visit to the 24th Judicial District in April 2014. Paul lives in Parsons with his wife, Christy, and their three children. They are members of First Baptist Church in Parsons.

JENNIFER L. FOSTER is the owner of the Law Office of Jennifer Foster in Memphis, Tennessee, where she is a social security disability attorney. She is a member of the Memphis Bar Association, Tipton County Bar Association and the National Organization for Social Security Claimants Representatives. She is married to Dr. Brian Foster and has four children: Logan, Elijah, Anna Grace and Sophia.

MEAGAN FRAZIER is a partner at Smith Harris & Carr in Nashville, Tennessee, where she focuses on government relations. She was a finalist for the 2013 Nashville Emerging Leader Award and is the immediate past president of the Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates where she has served on the board since 2007. She is the president of the ALS Association Tennessee Chapter and serves on the Tennessee Bar Association government affairs committee, Tennessee Bar Law PAC executive committee and Tennessee Lobbyist Association board of directors. She is a member of the Tennessee and Nashville Bar associations, Nashville Kappa Delta Alumnae Chapter and Dickson County Chamber of Commerce.

PATTI B. GARNER operates her private practice in Gallatin, Tennessee, where she focuses on family and criminal law and personal injury cases. She devotes her spare time to mentoring new attorneys through mock trial competitions at the state and local levels, Teen Court, legal-aid, domestic violence programs, low bono and some pro

bono services. Patti also recently announced her candidacy for Chancery Court Judge in Sumner County, where primary elections will be held May 6.

CHRISTOPHER GILDER is a police lieutenant and legal advisor for the Metro Nashville Police Department. He oversees the office of Professional Accountability for the department. Christopher was admitted in November 2012 to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a member of the Tennessee and Nashville Bar associations, the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and the Police Executive Research Forum.

SAMANTHA K. GROSLAND practices family law at Frizzell & Frizzell, PLLC in Hendersonville, Tennessee. She also is a board member of the Teen Court in Sumner County, Tennessee.

MARJORIE K. HAINES is a commercial real estate attorney with Kay B. Housch, PC in Nashville, Tennessee.

KYLE B. HECKMAN practices business, creditor's rights and estate planning law at Lee & Lee Attorneys, PC in Lebanon, Tennessee. His most notable cases include *Shui Lee v. Christopher Helm, Elisa Guevera v. Jay Wilfong* and *Atwood & Atwood Properties v. Kevin Dennis*. Kyle is on the board of directors of the Wilson County Fair as well as a member of the Rotary Club in Mt. Juliet.

ARIC D. HINSON is a real estate attorney at Realty Title & Escrow Co., Inc., in Smyrna, Tennessee. He is a member of the Hickman County Bar Association, Hickman County, Tennessee, and was the assistant public defender for the 21st Judicial District from 2010-2011.

ROBERT P. HOPKINS, IV operates a solo practice focused on wills, estates and business law, and is the owner of the Nora Group, LLC in Smyrna, Tennessee. He is the North Rutherford YMCA 2013 Volunteer of the Year and is on the board of directors for the organization. He is a member of the Smyrna Rotary Club and Smyrna Rotary board of directors, and is the men's ministry coordinator for Northside Baptist Church. Additionally, he is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Rutherford.

BETHANY G. HUSKEY is an attorney advisor for the Social Security Administration. She is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Disability Law Section; and

the Association of Attorney Advisors. Her public service includes working with the American Legion Auxiliary and Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County, Tennessee.

MELISSA KELL is the VP, general counsel & corporate compliance officer at Walden Security in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She currently holds certification as a facility security officer and a HIPAA portability administrator, and is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

DONNELL KELLY served as a magistrate for the 17th Judicial District and is now enjoying retirement in Lewisburg, Tennessee.

STEPHEN W. KENT, SR., M.D. is the medical director of DoctorsCare, medical director of Montgomery County EMS and the medical examiner for Montgomery County, Tennessee. He is board certified in emergency medicine and occupational medicine. Stephen is a U.S. Citizen and Immigrations Service civil surgeon and performs immigration medical examinations. He is a medical review officer and aviation medical examiner, and is on the Tennessee Medical Impairment Rating Registry. Stephen holds memberships with the American College of Legal Medicine, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Tennessee Bar Association, and the Tennessee Medical Association.

EMILY M. LEININGER opened her own firm, All Things Family Law, in Brentwood, Tennessee, where she focuses on family and juvenile law. She is a member and law day chair of the Williamson County Bar Association. Emily is also a member of the Williamson County chapter of the John Marshall American Inn of Courts. She is married and has five children.

FENG LI M.D., PH.D. is a member of a private medical group and was appointed CEO of Forensic Medical Management Service, PLC in 2012. Forensic Medical Management Service, headquartered in Nashville, is a full-service forensic pathology group with two offices in Tennessee and two in Texas. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

TERESA A. LUNA is a partner at Spragins, Barnett & Cobb, PLC in Jackson, Tennessee where she focuses on personal injury, commercial litigation, employment

law, estate planning, education law, and municipal law. Her most notable cases include *Brunt v. City of Lexington*, *SWTEMC v. City of Jackson*, *Whitney v. City of Milan*, *Howenton v. Loews*, and *Forsythe v. Aarons, Inc.* Teresa is the public relations chair for the Jackson Chapter of Inns of Court and was chosen for the Tennessee Bar Association leadership law class of 2013.

MARY ELIZABETH MCCULLOHS works in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office as the assistant attorney general of the Medicaid fraud & integrity division and is a special assistant United States attorney.

ANGELA L. NEWBERRY works in employee relations and special counsel for a private employer in Nashville, Tennessee. She has been certified in healthcare compliance and healthcare privacy compliance (CHPC) since 2010. Angela is the secretary on the board of directors for St. Augustine's Episcopal Church.

MICHELLE BLAYLOCK OWENS is the co-founder and partner in Agee Owens Law firm in Nashville, Tennessee, which was founded in 2008. She primarily focuses on labor and education law. Her most notable cases include *Clarke v. Metro Government Nashville*, in which a nepotism policy was overturned. The case made local and national news in 2012. She is an active member of Percy Priest PTO and provided pro bono work for the Nashville division of workers' dignity project.

EVERETTE "RHETT" PARRISH has worked in a private practice in Nashville, Tennessee, since 2007, focusing on dependent care (juvenile/elderly) and criminal law. He was a civil rights attorney for juveniles at Woodland Hills and Wilder Youth Development Centers. Rhett also was awarded the Nashville Bar Association's Contributor of the Year award in 2012.

BENJAMIN L. PARSLEY, III is a partner at Waldron, Fann & Parsley, Attorneys at Law in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he has practiced criminal defense, personal injury, workers' compensation, and employment law. He devotes 95 percent of his practice to litigation. Benjamin is on the community board of CB&S Bank. He is a board member with Murfreesboro City Schools Foundation and a committee member with Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital Foundation.

KEN PHILLIPS operates a successful solo practice in Gallatin, Tennessee focusing on family law and criminal defense.

HONEY PIKE retired from the Metro Nashville Police Department in August of 2010 after 33 years of service at the rank of deputy chief of police. She then became assistant chief of police at the Vanderbilt University Police Department.

ERIN S. POLAND is in practice with her father in Clarksville, Tennessee, where she focuses on criminal, juvenile and family law. Erin has been a member of the Tennessee and the Montgomery County Bar associations since 2008. In 2012, she was the president of the Montgomery County Bar Association and was a member of the 2008-2009 Leadership Clarksville class. She is an active leader in Montgomery County Teen Court and a faithful participant in Wills for Heroes.

JENNIFER M. PORTH practices civil litigation at J. Stephen Brown, PC in Lebanon, Tennessee. She was president of the 15th Judicial District Bar Association in 2012-2013 and was elected to the board of directors for United Way of Wilson County. She also is legal counsel for the Wilson County First Responders Rehab Association. She is a member of the Wilson County Breakfast Rotary Club and has volunteered on mission teams to Appalachia and New York. She also gives back locally to Friendship Christian School and to her church, United Methodist Church.

SANDER J. RABINOWITZ operated a solo practice from 2007-2009 in Columbia, Tennessee. In 2009, he joined the Social Security Administration as an attorney-advisor for the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. Sander is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and lives in Spring Hill, Tennessee. He is married with one daughter, who is an aspiring lawyer.

MICHAEL ROBINSON is a partner in multiple companies that focus on land development, construction and commercial leasing. He lives in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee with his wife, Melissa, and daughter, Kendall; they are active members of Providence United Methodist Church.

MATTHEW S. SLOAN is the general counsel and associate executive director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission. He manages the legal and

regulatory functions for the commission. Since 2007, he has served as director of policy for the Tennessee Department of State and as a chief engrossing clerk of the Senate in the Tennessee General Assembly.

R. NEIL SPENCE is not practicing law at this time; he is very involved in ministry and counseling. Neil is pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Dickson, Tennessee.

AMANDA R. THORNTON is a partner at Roberts, Thornton & Pence in Nashville, Tennessee, where she focuses on family law. She is a member of the Nashville and Sumner County Bar associations as well as the Tennessee Association for Justice. She recently married 2006 NSL alumnus Michael Pence, who also works at Roberts, Thornton & Pence.

SHAWN C. TRAIL operates his own practice and is the Municipal Judge in Manchester, Tennessee.

TODD A. TRESSLER, II practices in Lebanon, Tennessee and is a member of both the American and Tennessee Land Title Associations, and the Middle Tennessee Fifteenth Judicial Bar Association. He is a board member of the Lebanon/Wilson County Chamber of Commerce, Jazz at the Mill and the Wilson County Help Center. He is an affiliate member of Eastern Middle Tennessee Association of Realtors, and Greater Nashville Association of Realtors and has been a board member of the Young Lawyer's Division of the Tennessee Bar Association since 2010.

TRENENA WILCHER is a partner at the Law Office of Eric J. Burch in Manchester, Tennessee, focusing on criminal defense and domestic law. She is a commissioner on the board of commissioners for the Warren County Utility District.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS is a partner at the law office of Larry R. Williams, PLLC in Nashville, Tennessee, where he practices plaintiff's litigation, estate planning and probate. *Super Lawyers* recognized him as a 2013 Rising Star. Jonathan has tried 26 cases to verdict and argued four cases in the Tennessee Court of Appeals. He has a 9.8 rating on AVVO. He is on the board of directors for the Tennessee Association for Justice and is the president of the Middle Tennessee Wrestling Officials Association.



2013 WINTER GRADUATION



1: Justice Koch **2:** (L to R) Robin Larkin, Maria Lindsey & Nona Dance **3:** Dean Virginia M. Townzen & Carter Conley
4: Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr. **5:** Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr. & Ashley Sterns **6:** Marshall Davidson, Dean Joe C. Loser, Jr. & Robert (Bob) Pickney
7: Lonniea Holman & Derek Potter **8:** Michael Wrenn, Daniel Buehler & George Angelopoulos

(Passing the Torch to Justice William C. Koch, Jr. continued)

on the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals has been rewarding and meaningful, and I was looking forward to becoming Chief Justice next fall. However, when the school's Board of Trustees approached me about becoming dean, I quickly realized that I could make no better use of my time and energy than spearheading the professional development of women and men who make extraordinary sacrifices every day to learn the law and use it to benefit others."

Justice Koch is profoundly committed to NSL's crucial mission. He has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to education, advancing legal minds by serving as an NSL faculty member and on the adjunct faculty of Vanderbilt

Law School and Belmont University College of Law.

He has received many awards throughout his career including Tennessee Appellate Judge of the Year in 2002. He was named one of the 500 Leading Judges in America in 2006. He received the Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Jr. Excellence in Volunteer Leadership Award from the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville in 1999 to honor his exceptional volunteer achievements.

Justice Koch is involved in numerous professional and civic organizations across the nation. He is a founding member of the Harry Phillips American Inn of Court and the Belmont College of Law American Inn of Court. He also has served on the Board of Trustees of

the American Inn of Court Foundation, and he is currently the chair of the Foundation's Leadership Council.

Justice Koch earned his undergraduate degree from Trinity College in 1969. He obtained his law degree from Vanderbilt Law School in 1972 and his master of law degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1996. ■

"He is one of Tennessee's most thoughtful and committed judges, and his vast knowledge and experience assure a bright future for our institution."

— THOMAS F. CONE, Chairman
NSL Board of Trustees



NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW SALUTES OUR DECEMBER 2013 GRADUATES

On Saturday, December 7, fifty-nine men and women graduated from Nashville School of Law in a ceremony at the Nashville Convention Center. Justice William C. Koch, Jr. was the keynote speaker and asked students to glimpse the possibility of change, the possibility of improvement and the possibility of equal justice under law. The benediction was given by graduate Elizabeth McCoyd Greer and the student speaker was Steven Blake Bratcher.

Graduates Christopher Allen Jones and Julie Carrell Heffington received the Founders' Award and Moot Court Award, respectively. Also noted at the ceremony was the accomplishment of Christopher Allen Jones, who graduated with a 4.0. NSL warmly welcomes these graduates into the legal profession.

George Blaine Angelopoulos	Megan Eri Hall	Derek S. Potter
Jennifer Lee Bergin	Julie Carrell Heffington+	Megan Harlan Quillen
Steven Blake Bratcher*	Dalis Davis Holliman	Rachel Elizabeth Rader
Cindy Brown	Lonniea Coe Holman	Barrett Winston Rich
Rachel Nicole Bruning	Amanda Marie Howard	Jeffrey Alan Risen*
Daniel Andrew Buehler	Jill M. Hudson	Cassandra Shockley
Timothy Pate Carter	William F. Hyde	Ashley DeSabetino Stearns
Grace Nicole Fly Cashion	Jeffrey Blake Jackson	Brittany Wild Vick
Brooke Allison Cecil	Christopher Allen Jones*/**	William Walker Wade
Amanda Leigh Cocanougher	Robin Rechelle Larkin	Ashley Edgar Waters
Carter Matthew Conley	Rebecca Lane Lashbrook	Lisa Pettibone Webb
Fredrick Matthew Curtis	Justin Hunter Layne	David Standish Weed, Jr.
Nona Ann Dance	Lody Rosario Limbird	John Ray Wilks
Jeremy Lee Deason*	Maria Teresa Lindsey	Tracey Vought Williams
Chelsea Lynn Edwards	Elizabeth B. McElwee	Lauren Kathleen Wills
James W. Fuller, Jr.	Crystal Buchanan Moffat	Frances Adele Barton Wilson
Rebecca J. Gailmard	Jaymes D. Moreland	Michael Allen Wrenn*
Matthew Ray Gibbs*	Lindsey Carol Ellison Nelson	Deborah J. Wright
Sandra S. Gibbs	Robert J. Pickney	Kathryn L. Yarbrough
Elizabeth McCoyd Greer*	Jennifer Pitta Ribas	

* Cooper's Inn Honor Society ** Founders' Award + Moot Court Award

Nashville School of Law
4013 Armory Oaks Drive
Nashville, TN 37204

Tel. 615.256.3684

Fax 615.244.2383

www.nashvilleschooloflaw.net
email: beth@nashvilleschooloflaw.net



Nashville School of Law

SAVE THE DATE!

21ST ANNUAL
RECOGNITION
DINNER

•
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2014

•
5:30 P.M.

•
RENAISSANCE HOTEL
NASHVILLE

Please call (615) 780-2241 for tickets.