Where great lawyers are made

In ranking institutions, The National Jurist undertook a statistical analysis of the nation’s law schools using linear regression, comparing incoming LSAT scores with bar passage rates for the classes of 2011 and 2012. The publication also took into account the differences of state bar passage rates. A complete breakdown of the methodology is included within the February issue accompanying the rankings.

Over the course of the past 25 years, 90.89% of Campbell Law graduates have passed the July North Carolina Bar Exam on their first try. That remarkable statistic is tops among the seven North Carolina law schools. On the July 2014 North Carolina Bar Exam, 85.61% of Campbell Law’s first-time test-takers passed.

The National Jurist also recently named Campbell Law one of the top law schools in the country for practical training. One of 86 institutions nationally to make the list, Campbell Law received the highest rating of any North Carolina law school. The distinction also marks Campbell Law’s first appearance on the list, another indicator of its continued rise in national recognition.

Campbell Law ranked second nationally for best bar exam prep by The National Jurist

Campbell Law School has been named the second best law school in the country for bar exam preparation by The National Jurist. Of the 50 schools included on the list, Campbell Law is the only North Carolina law school selected for inclusion.

The complete list is available via The National Jurist February 2015 issue.

“It’s exciting for a leading legal education publication to highlight our law school in this fashion,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “We have a lengthy history of surpassing our peers on the bar exam, both inside and outside of North Carolina, and it’s one of the paramount reasons that this law school continues to grow by leaps and bounds.”

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Message from
Dean J. Rich Leonard

As I have traveled the state and region meeting many of you, I have increasingly realized how many “Bar Honors” are now among your ranks.

With some digging, we have created the first database of Campbell lawyers who are or have been judges, and the extent to which our graduates have populated the judiciary comes as a pleasant surprise.

It turns out that 87 of our graduates either are or have been judges, with 79 still sitting. Most are in North Carolina, although five sit on the trial courts of other states. Three members of the North Carolina Court of Appeals, or 20% of the Court, hold Campbell Law degrees. Fifteen of the state’s 112 superior court judges hail from our school. The largest group by far, 54 of 270, or 20%, sit on the district courts of North Carolina. And we have some federal representation, as two of the United States magistrate judges in the Eastern District came from here.

These numbers represent an enormous pool of talent and prestige that we have underutilized to date, but we hope to change that. In the months and years to come, we will be looking at novel ways we can showcase our judicial alumni, and involve them more fully in the life of our school. Please feel free to share these proud facts.

J. Rich Leonard
ASHLEY BRATHWAITE has been named partner at Ellis & Winters LLP.

SHIAU YEN CHIN-DENNIS was elected vice chair of the Oregon District Export Council and named partner at K&L Gates in Portland.

Henry S. Morphis has opened Morphis Law & Mediation in Hickory, N.C., and recently earned an AV Preeminent Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell Rating Agency.

Christopher S. Morden has been named partner at Monroe Wallace Law Group.

Michael S. Rainey has been named a shareholder of Young Moore and Henderson, P.A.

Ashley Baxter Curry has joined the Office of Joseph A. Bledsoe, III, in New Bern, N.C., and was recently elected 2015 Chairman of the New Bern Young Professionals Group.

Samuel D. Fleder has been named partner at Smith Debnam.


Did You Know?

Starting a solo practice and in need of a website?
Looking to give your current site a fresh face or complete overhaul?
Current Campbell Law FLEX student Cosmo Zinkow is the owner of Esquire Web Design and offers high quality, search engine optimized web designs for $500.
Visit Esquire Web Design at http://www.esquirewebdesign.com/ or contact him via e-mail at nathanielzinkow@gmail.com.
Scott Pryor to join Campbell Law faculty

C. Scott Pryor will join the law school faculty as a Professor of Law with the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year. Boasting more than 15 years of commercial law practice, he specializes in Contracts, Secured Transactions, Sales, and Bankruptcy.

"I am delighted that Scott will be joining us next fall," said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. "He is one of the most respected commercial and bankruptcy law scholars in the country, and his expertise and experience in the classroom will provide a substantial benefit to our students."

Pryor has served on the faculty at Regent University School of Law since August 1998. He was previously a visiting professor at Campbell Law (2010-11), as well as a resident scholar at the American Bankruptcy Institute in Washington, D.C. (2013), Fulbright Scholar at the National Law University in Jodhpur, India (2009), and visiting professor at Handong International Law School in Pohang, South Korea (2006). He was also the director of Regent’s Summer Program in International Human Rights in Strasbourg, France (2005 and 2008).

Pryor holds a B.A. from Dordt College and an M.A. from Reformed Theological Seminary. He earned his J.D. from the University of Wisconsin College of Law.

Founding board members selected for alumni association

Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard has announced the 18 founding members of the Campbell Law Alumni Association Board of Directors. The Board, which will be tasked with assisting in the establishment and operation of the Association, encompasses 17 different Campbell Law graduating classes and a broad assortment of practice areas.

"We put out a call for volunteers to our alumni and the response was overwhelming," said Leonard. "We are fortunate to have such a strong, accomplished alumni base, and Campbell Law graduates are fiercely loyal and eager to assist us.

"The challenge in identifying members to serve on the inaugural Board was to provide equal representation among all alumni eras throughout the history of the law school and our two campuses. I believe this group does just that. I am confident that they will leave no stone unturned in crafting a first-rate alumni association that will serve all of our graduates moving forward."

In subsequent years, six members of the Board will cycle off annually and be replaced by newly-elected members chosen by the membership.


Jones will serve as chair of the board, with Miller acting as vice chair.

Campbell Law Classroom dedicated to Una Holder O’Quinn

Classroom 413 at Campbell Law School will forever be known as the Una Holder O’Quinn Classroom. The classroom was dedicated in her honor during a formal ceremony on Jan. 9 at the law school. Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard and Campbell University Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Assistant to the President Dr. Britt J. Davis presided over the ceremony.

The room was named in honor of Holder O’Quinn, a 1969 Campbell College graduate, following a financial contribution from her daughter, Alisa, and son-in-law, former North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker, in her honor.

Holder O’Quinn grew up in Mamers, North Carolina, a rural community in western Harnett County. No one in her family had ever attended college, but through the encouragement of community leaders and support of her loved ones, she enrolled at Campbell College in 1965 to become a teacher. One of her grandsons, Jackson D. Wicker, graduated from Campbell Law in 2012, the first class of law school students to attend all three years at the Raleigh campus.
Dudley, Smith capture ABA regional title

Second-year Campbell Law School students Mary Frances Dudley and Sloan Smith won the American Bar Association Regional Client Counseling Competition at the law school on Feb. 14. The duo will now move on to compete against 11 other regional champions at the national finals, March 12-14, at North Carolina Central University School of Law in Durham, N.C. “I am immensely proud of Mary Frances and Sloan for their efforts during the competition,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard.

“The were exceptionally prepared, poised, and on top of their game. I look forward to seeing them accomplish even more things over the remainder of their law school careers,” said Professor Melissa Essary.

En route to the title, Dudley and Smith competed in three preliminary rounds and one semifinal round. They went head-to-head against teams from UNC-Chapel Hill and Charlotte Law School in the final round. The pair was coached by Professor Melissa Essary.

“In ranking them first in the competition, judges commented that Mary Frances and Sloan exhibited the characteristics of great lawyers: empathy, competence, and confidence,” said Essary. “It’s been my great honor to coach this winning team.”

Campbell Law served as the host institution for the event, welcoming 11 total teams and participants from five additional schools.

The ABA Client Counseling Competition emphasizes the importance of preventative law and the need to be an effective counselor in the law office. The competition tests the students’ ability to deal with a client’s non-legal goals as well as their legal concerns. Students must probe the client for relevant details while putting the client at ease. Last, teams must analyze the law as applied to the client’s issue and provide a plan of action.

Federal Bar Association holds CLE at Campbell Law

Campbell Law hosted a continuing legal education program for the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of North Carolina (FBA-ENDC) on Feb. 13. The CLE featured three panels discussing federal practice: one with U.S. District Court judges, one with U.S. Magistrate judges, and the third focusing on the ethics of the role of local counsel in both civil and criminal matters. Two of the four participating U.S. Magistrate Judges, The Honorable Robert B. Jones, Jr. (’97) and The Honorable Kimberly A. Swank (’91), are Campbell Law graduates. Campbell Law Practitioner in Residence Matt Sawchak moderated the event.

Reentry Project to receive 2015 NCBA Pro Bono Award

The Reentry Project, an initiative of the Campbell Law School Bono Council, has been selected to receive the 2015 Law Student Group Pro Bono Award from the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA). The accolade marks the first time that a group from Campbell Law has collected the honor.

The award will be formally presented in June during the 2015 NCBA Annual Meeting in Asheville.

The Reentry Project assists citizens who may qualify for relief from the collateral consequences stemming from a criminal record, which often include barriers to employment opportunities and affordable housing.

Students participate in training provided by the North Carolina Justice Center and Legal Aid of North Carolina, and learn about the collateral consequences of having a criminal record and the criteria for expungements and certificates of relief under state law. Students also learn how to review criminal records and participate in practice exercises to apply the law and determine eligibility for relief.

Following training, and under the supervision of Legal Aid staff attorneys and volunteer attorneys, students participate in mobile clinics to interview clients and identify those who may be eligible for relief. More than 100 clients have been served by 23 Campbell Law students since the program’s inception in the fall of 2013.

The NCBA Law Student Group Pro Bono Award is annually presented to an outstanding law student group whose project benefits low-income North Carolinians.