J. Rich Leonard assumes deanship at Campbell Law

J. Rich Leonard, former United States Bankruptcy Court Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, assumed the role of dean of Campbell University’s Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law on July 15. Dean Leonard serves at Campbell Law’s fifth dean, following Dean Melissa Essary (2006-12) and Interim Dean Keith Faulkner (2012-13).

“I am elated that the opportunity to lead this vibrant institution has come my way,” said Leonard.

A native of Davidson County, Leonard is a 1971 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead Scholar. He earned a master’s degree in education from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1973, and then earned a law degree from Yale Law School in 1976.

He has served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina since 1992 and as Chief Judge from 1999 through 2006. Prior to that time, he was a United States Magistrate Judge (1981–1992) and Clerk of Court of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina (1979–1992). For more than a decade, Leonard also acted as a consultant to the U.S. Department of State to work with judiciaries in many developing countries.

Leonard’s professional associations include appointments to the Board of Governors for the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges (2008-2011); Fellow at the American College of Bankruptcy (2005–present); and leadership roles with the Wake County Bar Association and North Carolina Bar Association, among other legal organizations.

His judicial work and expertise have earned him both state and national recognition. In 2011, the American Bar Association awarded Leonard with the Robert B. Yegge Award for Outstanding Contribution to Judicial Administration. He is a 1992 recipient of the Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Federal Judiciary. In 2011, he was selected as the Editor in Chief of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal.

Leonard has also been active in the classroom. He has worked as an adjunct professor for North Carolina Central University School of Law (1985–1986, 1995–1998); UNC School of Law (1994–1995); and, most recently, Campbell Law (2009-2013). In 2012, Campbell Law’s Delta Theta Phi Fraternity presented Leonard with the Judge Robinson O. Everett Award for Legal Excellence.

One of my aunts often recounted a story of which I have no recollection. She said that one hot, dewy August morning, when I was 11 or 12, after several backbreaking hours in the tobacco field, I stood up and exclaimed: “This is for the birds. I’m going to law school.” It seemed improbable. My father was the only one of 10 boys in his family to finish high school, and no one before me even attempted college.

From that tobacco field to where I sit today would seem a pretty far climb. But in some ways, I am here because of that tobacco field, because the values learned there have shaped my entire life. And, much like the core values of Campbell University, they were simple yet priceless.

A lot has changed for our beloved Campbell Law since the fall of 1976, when 86 students entered Old Kivett Hall to become our founding class. Over the years we’ve thrived in an intimate environment and taken bold action by relocating and taking hold of our future, all while remaining true to our bedrock Christian values.

Our first 30-plus years of existence enrich us and provide the foundation on which we proceed. But they are also our history, not our future. With that said, these are shifting times in legal education and we are not immune. As educators, we owe our students an academic education that is substantive—strong across subjects, a set of skills that allow them to enter our profession ready to contribute, and a culture, true to our heritage, that instills values of integrity, accountability, and commitment to justice.

My decision to serve as the dean of this institution is a testament to my faith in the future of Campbell Law. I believe that with the blessing of Divine Providence and our collective hard work and good will, our brightest days are in front of us.

I look forward to working alongside the entire Campbell Law community as we continue to reach unprecedented heights.
CLASS OF 1992

Rebecca J. Britton has been selected to serve on the National High School Mock Trial Board of Directors.

CLASS OF 2003

Melissa Gott was appointed by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory to serve as a member of the state’s Advisory Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs.

CLASS OF 1996

Jessica C. Smythe spoke at the recent 2013 CLM Workers’ Compensation Mini Conference in Chicago.

CLASS OF 2004

Jenny S. Isgett was named a “20 Under 40” honoree by South Carolina newspaper The State.

CLASS OF 2010

Kevin T. May was named partner at Graves May, PLLC.

The North Carolina Bankers Association has promoted E. Dawn Thompson to Vice President of National Legislative Affairs & Associate Counsel.

CLASS OF 1997

Judge Robert B. Jones, Jr. has been appointed as a full-time United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina in Wilmington, N.C.

CLASS OF 2000

Judge Casey Vaser was appointed as a District Court judge by North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory.

Connect With Us!

Our alumni serve a vital role within the Campbell Law community, and are frequently called upon to assist with volunteer opportunities, recruiting, assisting with mock interviews, informing us of market opportunities, hosting events, or partnering with a student organization.

All Campbell Law alumni are also welcome to utilize our Career & Professional Development Center services, including career advising, employment search, and reciprocity.

If you are interested in connecting with the law school and serving our students, please contact Campbell Law’s Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving Megan West at 919.865.5875 or by email at westm@law.campbell.edu.

Did You Know?

The Juvenile Justice Project and Senior Law Clinic programs help students build upon our vision while offering valuable services to low-income members of our community. More clinical programs are in development at Campbell Law.

We welcome professional and personal updates from our alumni, and we encourage you to send photos.

For more information, contact: Brandon Yopp, Director of Communications | yopp@campbell.edu | 919.865.5978
Campbell Law holds investiture service for Dean Leonard

J. Rich Leonard was ceremonially installed as the dean of Campbell Law School before an audience of more than 500 on Aug. 13, at First Baptist Church. Representatives from Campbell University, federal, state, and local government and judicial officials, members of numerous state and local bar organizations, and law school students attended and participated in the service.

Campbell University President Dr. Jerry M. Wallace presided over the service and offered the President’s Charge.

“Any feasible change of this law school, save our purpose, is an option. I charge you to value, enhance, and grow this Campbell University Law School. The leadership and stewardship of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law is now vested in you. I pray that you will fall in love with Campbell and its law school.

“Cherish the treasure of Campbell University and the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law way down deep in your good heart. As you do, your heart will be filled with the love necessary for this calling.”

Leonard used his installation address to touch on his personal journey from childhood to law school, and his transition from the bench to the dean’s office. Leonard also spoke at length on the rich history of the institution, the challenges facing legal education in today’s climate, and the actions that Campbell Law will take to ensure its continued success moving forward.

“To our students here, this is a demanding occupation you have chosen to enter,” said Leonard. “We carry in our hands peoples’ lives: who will get custody of children, whether the family business will survive, whether dad will go to jail, or whether the mega million dollar merger will actually come off.

“To meet these challenges, we owe you three things: an academic education that is substantively strong across subjects; a set of skills that allow you to enter our profession ready to contribute, and a culture, true to our Christian heritage, that instills in each of you values of integrity, trustworthiness, and commitment to justice.”

First-year students visit Buies Creek, main campus during orientation

Campbell Law’s 121 first-year students visited Buies Creek and the main campus of Campbell University on Aug. 14, as a part of orientation. The day-long visit provided an opportunity for the new students to learn, witness, and experience the history of Campbell Law from current and past administrators, professors, students, and several accomplished alums.

The day began bright and early in Raleigh with a light breakfast and welcome message from Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. All students and numerous faculty and staff members then traveled together to Buies Creek via bus.

Upon arriving at Butler Chapel on main campus, students enjoyed congratulatory remarks and were exposed to the history of the university and law school by Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. M. Dwaine Greene, and 1982 Campbell Law graduate and law school board of visitors chairman Terrence M. Bagley.

Students later embarked on a tour of main campus, including Kivett and Wiggins Hall, which served as the home of Campbell Law from 1976 until the move to Raleigh in 2009. During lunch at Marshbanks Dining Hall, students had the opportunity to mingle and network with more than 20 Campbell Law alums.

Following the trip to Buies Creek, Dean Leonard and his family hosted all of the new first-year students, along with alumni, and law school faculty, staff, and family members, for an intimate BBQ at their home.

Four Campbell Law alums in NCBA Leadership Academy Class of 2013

Four of the 16 young lawyers in the North Carolina Bar Association (NCBA) Leadership Academy’s Class of 2013 are Campbell Law graduates. Lucy Austin (L ’08), Nicolette Fulton (L ’05), James Hash (L ’08) and Mica Worthy (L ’08) were all named to the group.

Each participant took part in six sessions of training prior to their graduation from the academy at the recent General Session of the NCBA Annual Meeting in Asheville.

The mission of the Leadership Academy is to help young lawyers become more effective leaders in any and all communities in which lawyers regularly have calls or opportunities for leadership.
Five Campbell Law alumni to be recognized by N.C. Lawyers Weekly

Five Campbell Law graduates will be recognized as “Leaders in the Law” by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly, R. Steve Bowden (L’79), Todd A. Jones (L’98), Christopher H. Roberts (L’93), Gary K. Shipman (L’80), and Ashley H. Story (L’82) will be formally recognized and honored during a luncheon at the Raleigh Marriott City Center on Sept. 18.

Bowden is the founding partner of R. Steven Bowden & Associates in Greensboro, N.C. He has received numerous accolades for his professional and community service accomplishments, including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, Campbell University Presidential Medalion and the Campbell University Distinguished Alumni Award. Bowden currently serves on the Campbell University Board of Trustees.

Roberts is the CEO and President of Crumley Roberts, LLP in Greensboro, N.C. His civic involvements include the NCBA, North Carolina Advocates for Justice, the American Association for Justice, the Greensboro Bar Association, the Mecklenburg County Bar Association, and the National Eagle Scout Association.

Shipman is a partner at Shipman and Wright, LLP in Wilmington, N.C. Extremely active in the community, he frequently discusses the law with students and is a featured guest on numerous community radio programs. He has also sponsored and coached numerous little league teams throughout his community and is a supporter of several local charities and organizations.

Story is the Managing Partner of the Raleigh, N.C., office of Troutman Sanders. His public service projects include involvement with and membership in the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, the North Carolina Museum of History Associates, and the American Friends of the London School of Economics. Story serves on the Campbell Law Board of Visitors and has received the Campbell University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Professor Lee speaks during series on Christianity and culture

Campbell Law Associate Professor of Law Kevin Lee participated in a series on Christianity and culture at Christ Community Church in West End, N.C., on Aug. 21. Lee’s presentation, “Democratic Pluralism: Constitutional vs. Tradition Values,” marked third session of the four-part series.

Vice Dean Faulkner named next dean of Campbell University Lundy-Fetterman School of Business

Campbell University President Jerry Wallace has announced that Campbell Law School Vice Dean for Administration & External Relations B. Keith Faulkner has been named the next dean of Campbell University’s Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, effective Jan. 1, 2014. Faulkner will replace current Lundy-Fetterman School of Business dean Dr. Benjamin Hawkins, who will retire effective Dec 31, 2013. Hawkins has led the School of Business as dean since June 2004.

“Dean Faulkner is an experienced, imaginative and innovative leader and administrator who understands the mission of Campbell University and the opportunities before the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business,” said Wallace. “We look forward to seeing where he leads the business school in the coming years.”

“This is a win-win situation for Campbell University,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “The Lundy-Fetterman School of Business is getting a great leader in Keith Faulkner, and the law school is fortunate to continue to benefit from his deep institutional knowledge for the remainder of the year. I have no doubt that Keith will lead the School of Business to unprecedented heights in time.”

Faulkner returned to Campbell Law, his alma mater, in 2004. Before becoming its vice dean for administration and external relations, he had held the positions of executive associate dean for academic affairs and administration and associate dean for external relations. He also served as interim dean of the law school during the 2012-13 academic year following Dean Melissa Essary (2006-12).

During Faulkner’s time as interim dean, Campbell Law collected its highest-ever ranking as a top tier law school in U.S. News & World Report’s Best Graduate Schools guidebook. Faulkner also led the creation of a mentorship program and the Public Interest Law Fellow Program, expanded the development department to include a director of alumni relations and annual giving, and helped establish nine new scholarships.

Throughout his nine years with the law school, Faulkner also served as a visiting professor in the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business, where he taught classes on business ethics and business regulation. He earned his J.D./MBA dual degree from Campbell Law and the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business in 2001.

“I am very excited and humbled to have been selected to continue serving Campbell University as the next dean of the Lundy-Fetterman School of Business,” Faulkner said. “The opportunity to lead such a group of distinguished faculty, staff, and students is indeed an honor.”