Campbell Law climbs five spots in latest U.S. News rankings

Campbell Law School climbed five spots and remained in the top tier for law schools per the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings released on March 11. Standing 121st nationally, the ranking bests Campbell Law’s previous benchmark of 126 set a year ago.

The ranking is included as a part of the publication’s Best Graduate Schools 2015 guidebook, available on newsstands April 8.

“This is a great achievement for our institution,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “As legal education continues to change, we’ve sought ways to stand out while staying true to our roots and providing a strong, robust education that prepares our graduates for future success in practice and leadership. Our continued improvement in this ranking is a testament to the work being done on our campus.”

Campbell Law ranked high in several metrics comprising the overall rankings, including student/faculty ratio, graduates employed nine months after graduation with a full-time job lasting at least a year for which bar passage was required or a J.D. degree was an advantage, and bar passage.

Of the seven law schools in North Carolina, Campbell Law stands as one of four institutions ranked inside the top tier.

Campbell Law earns high marks from The National Jurist for bar passage, employment

Campbell Law School scored an “A” in bar passage and an “A” in employment in new rankings recently released by The National Jurist. With the rankings Campbell Law stands as one of just 22 institutions nationally to receive a grade of “A” or better in both the bar passage and employment categories.

“We are proud of our accomplishments in bar passage and employment,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “These findings are a testament to the resolve of our graduates, as well as the hard work of our faculty and staff.”

Over the past 23 years, 92 percent of Campbell Law graduates have passed the North Carolina bar exam on their first try. Campbell Law graduates have also fared well in finding legal jobs, ranking in the top 17 percent of all 203 American Bar Association (ABA) accredited law schools for full-time, long-term legal employment per ABA data from the graduating classes of 2011 and 2012.
CLASS OF 2005
James Adam Bridwell has been named a 2014 Rising Star by Super Lawyers and is a board certified specialist in Workers' Compensation.

R. Jason Walls was named a Business North Carolina 2014 Legal Elite Young Gun.

CLASS OF 2007
Chandan Shankar was named to the Top 100 Trial Lawyers for Criminal Defense in 2014 and Top 40 Under 40 by National Trial Lawyers.

CLASS OF 2008
Steven Saad has joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP to serve as co-chair of its criminal defense practice.

CLASS OF 2010
John Bridges has announced his candidacy for District Attorney of Cleveland and Lincoln counties in North Carolina.

Brent Groce has announced his candidacy for the Second District in North Carolina's House of Representatives.

Captain Laurel Clemence-Schreiner Spalding was awarded the Bronze Star Medal during a recent deployment to Afghanistan as an Operational Law Attorney.

Megan G. West was named a 2014 Women in Business award winner by Triangle Business Journal.

CLASS OF 2011
Michael LeClair served as a panelist for the “Under the Wire” CLE seminar, discussing recent developments in FCPA enforcement and ethical considerations during global internal investigations alongside U.S. Attorney Thomas Walker (L '90).

Brad Salmon has announced his candidacy for the 51st District in North Carolina's House of Representatives.

Tripp Womble has joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP as an associate attorney.

CLASS OF 2012
Michael J. Crook has joined Parker Poe Adams & Berstein LLP.

CLASS OF 1986
Leslie S. Robinson was named to Business North Carolina 2014 Legal Elite.

CLASS OF 1987
Wayne Boyette announced his candidacy for District Court Judge of North Carolina’s Seventh Judicial District.

CLASS OF 1990
Benjamin Franklin, Jr. announced his candidacy for District Court Judge of North Carolina Judicial District 19A.

CLASS OF 1993
Martha J. Efird has joined Moore & Van Allen PLLC in the firm’s litigation practice group.

CLASS OF 1995
Bob Sar was named managing shareholder of Ogletree Deakins’ Raleigh office.

CLASS OF 2000
Melissa Moore Lelonek has been appointed Child Support Magistrate for the Fourth Judicial District of Tennessee.

CLASS OF 2002
Benjamin T. Cochran has been named a 2014 Rising Star by Super Lawyers.

North Carolina Governor Pat McCrory has appointed Christy Wilhelm to serve as a judge in District 19A.

CLASS OF 2004
Meader Harriss has announced his candidacy for District Court Judge of North Carolina’s First Judicial District.


Clifton Smith has announced his candidacy for District Court Judge of North Carolina’s 25th Judicial District.

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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 Assistant Dean of External Relations Megan West at 919.865.5875 or by email at westm@campbell.edu.

Did You Know?

Campbell Law School appreciates the generous gifts of the following firms in support of competitive teams from the Campbell Law Advocacy Program:

- Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP
- Ogletree Deakins
- Safran Law Offices
- Shipman & Wright, LLP
- Smith Moore Leatherwood, LLP
- Stubbs & Perdue
- Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice
- Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton, LLP

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 & Marketing | yopp@campbell.edu | 919.865.5978
Annual Family Day, Law Day Banquet a success

Campbell Law held its annual Family Day and Law Day Banquet on March 22. Family Day took place at the law school early in the morning, while the banquet followed later in the evening at the Raleigh Convention Center.

Family Day provided an opportunity for the friends and family of Campbell Law students to experience the law school atmosphere and get a glimpse into the life of a law school student. Attendees toured campus, met members of the faculty, staff and administration, watched moot court and trial team demonstrations and experienced the Socratic method.

The Law Day Banquet, this year in its 37th annual edition, served as a platform to recognize law students who have exemplified extra-ordinary academic and extracurricular success during the previous three law school semesters, as well as the professors of the year. Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Professor of Law Timothy R. Zinnecker received the Most Outstanding Professor Award, while Professor Matt Sawchak (Most Outstanding First-Year Professor Award) and Ken Hammer (Most Outstanding Adjunct Professor Award) were also honored.

Former Wake County D.A. Willoughby honored with Iredell Award

Former Wake County District Attorney C. Colon Willoughby, Jr., was presented the James Iredell Award on March 12 by Campbell Law School's Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) law fraternity. A graduate of Campbell Law's 1979 charter class, Willoughby received the award at a reception and dinner held at the Cardinal Club in downtown Raleigh.

Throughout his career, Willoughby has been extremely active within the profession. He is a Fellow with the American College of Trial Lawyers, sits on the Governor's Task Force on Racial and Religious Violence, is a past President of the Wake County Academy of Criminal Trial Lawyers and the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, and has served on legislative study commissions reviewing law enforcement issues and insanity verdicts and bail bonds. He has also been heavily involved with the North Carolina State Bar Council, the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar, the National District Attorney's Association Board of Directors, the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission.

Outside of the profession, Willoughby is active in the community. He has served on the Board of Governors of Summit House, Inc., is a past Director with Artspace, Inc. and NCLEAF and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Campbell Law ranks second on February North Carolina Bar Exam

The Board of Law Examiners for the State of North Carolina has confirmed that Campbell Law School ranked second among the seven North Carolina law schools for first-time bar passage on the February 2014 North Carolina Bar Exam. Of the six Campbell Law graduates who sat for the exam for the first time, five (83.33%) passed.

Only Duke University led Campbell Law on the bar exam, with all seven of its first-time test takers passing.

“We are excited that these graduates can now be referred to as our colleagues,” said Campbell Law Dean, Rich Leonard. “This is a tremendous achievement for each of them, and the beginning of what we believe will be long and fruitful careers as professional and community leaders. I speak on behalf of the entire Campbell Law community when I offer my most sincere congratulations to them.”

In all, 65.42% of total first-time test takers from North Carolina law schools passed the examination. Of all applicants that sat for the bar exam, including out of state and repeat candidates, 56.44% (355 of 629) passed.

Thirteen repeat testers from Campbell Law also passed the exam.

Campbell Law hosts inaugural mentor appreciation reception

Campbell Law hosted its inaugural mentor appreciation reception for participants of the Campbell Law Connections program on April 10 at the Cardinal Club. More than 110 program mentors, mentees, members of the judiciary and local legal community, and members of the Campbell Law community attended the function.

The program, which partners students with practicing legal professionals, exposes students and newly-minted attorneys to valuable learning opportunities and experiences. Mentees develop meaningful professional relationships and a more thorough understanding of the responsibilities and ethics demanded by the practice under the tutelage of a mentor.

"It wasn't that long ago that this program was the dream of a very small group," said Campbell Law Assistant Dean of Administration Zeke Bridges, who established Connections from the ground up and managed the program through the spring 2014 pilot phase. “We dreamed a big dream, and it’s come true. Campbell Law is fortunate to have such a strong and valuable partnership with the Wake County Bar Association and the Tenth Judicial District Bar.”

“Mentorship is an important aspect of our profession, and it has become a valuable opportunity for our students to participate in this program,” said Campbell Law Assistant Dean of External Relations Megan West, who will take the reins of Connections beginning with the 2014-15 academic year. “We are so appreciative of our mentors for their willingness to serve our students and profession.”

The event was sponsored by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly.
Campbell Law excels in Feeding Frenzy charitable contributions

Campbell Law School collected more food donations than the other three Triangle law schools for the 2014 North Carolina Feeding Frenzy. Led by Campbell Law Student Bar Association President Wes Saunders and third-year student Jasmine Lucas, the law school collected more than 5,300 pounds of food, which will provide over 10,000 meals to area residents.

“Service is not only a big part of the legal profession, but it’s one of the most important aspects of legal education at Campbell Law,” said Saunders. “I am proud to be at a place where our students, faculty, and staff come together to support such a worthwhile and impactful effort.”

The food drive was conducted March 10-28 by the North Carolina Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division in conjunction with the North Carolina Feeding America Food Banks.

Men’s Legal Caucus raises $1,500 for First Tee of the Triangle

Campbell Law School’s Men’s Legal Caucus (MLC) recently raised $1,500 for the First Tee of the Triangle during the group’s annual charity golf tournament, the Campbell Law Classic. More than 60 participants took part in the tournament on March 23 at River Ridge Golf Club.

“For several years now MLC has enjoyed a great relationship with the First Tee Foundation,” said MLC President and third-year student Adam Banks. “They provide a unique opportunity to give back to the community through the game of golf, a common interest that is shared by many of our members.”

Campbell Law holds inaugural flag raising ceremony

Campbell Law School Dean J. Rich Leonard presided over a brief ceremony as the law school raised the American flag on campus for the first time on March 31. Cadets from NC State University’s Army Reserve Officer’s Training Corps program assisted with the ceremony as the flag was raised on the recently added flagpole, which was donated by the Campbell Law class of 2013 in collaboration with the Military Law Student Association.

West named 2014 Women in Business award winner

Campbell Law Assistant Dean of External Relations Megan West was named a 2014 Women in Business award winner by the Triangle Business Journal. A 2010 Campbell Law graduate, West was recognized at an awards luncheon on April 7 at the Raleigh Marriott City Center in downtown Raleigh.

“I am honored to be recognized by the Triangle Business Journal,” said West. “It is my hope that this will provide a platform for me to further tout the mission of Campbell Law School and the successes that we are enjoying.”

A 2010 Campbell Law graduate, West joined the law school administration as the director of alumni relations & annual giving in September 2012. She was elevated to her current role this past January. West served as an associate attorney at Martin & Jones, PLLC in Raleigh prior to returning to her alma mater.

“This is a well-deserved recognition for the hard work that Megan has put in, both professionally and personally with various civic organizations, throughout the past year,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “As our external liaison to the community, we are excited for all of our neighbors to know what a difference she makes for Campbell Law.”

As assistant dean of external relations, West oversees the alumni relations, career services, communications, and development departments. She will also manage the Campbell Law Connections mentorship program beginning with the fall 2014 semester.

A native of Murphy, N.C., West graduated from Wake Forest University in 2007 with a B.S. in business. She then attended Campbell Law, spending time as a student at both the Buies Creek and Raleigh campuses prior to graduating in 2010. As a student she served as a consulting editor for the Campbell Law Review, president of the Christian Legal Society, competed in moot court competitions, and was a research assistant for Professor Jean Cary and Professor Greg Wallace. She was also a legal research and writing scholar.

West served as an associate attorney at Martin & Jones in Raleigh from 2010-12, representing clients in personal injury, products liability, and medical malpractice cases. Prior to Martin & Jones, West interned with the Solicitor General at the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office, Justice Edward Brady at the North Carolina Supreme Court, and Judge Barbara Jackson at the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

West was appointed to the Capital City Clauses Board of Directors in March 2013 and elected Wake Women Attorneys Vice President in December 2013. She has also served as a peer mentor for the Campbell University Lundy-Fettimer School of Business Young Women in Transition program.

Support Campbell Law

Every gift to Campbell Law makes a difference.

Contribute online at our secure site: www.alumni.law.campbell.edu/efr

For more information about giving opportunities, contact:

Trudi Brown, Director of Development
brown@campbell.edu / 919.865.5977