Campbell Law extends historical streak on July N.C. Bar Exam

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, tops among the seven N.C. law schools, comes on the heels of a second-place showing by the institution’s graduates on the July 2014 examination, in which 85.61% (119 of 139) of Campbell Law’s first-time test-takers passed.

Campbell Law is the only law school in the state of North Carolina to place in the top two for first-time test takers on the July bar exam in each of the past four years. This year, Campbell Law and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill were the only two law schools in N.C. to crack 80% or better overall.

“We are thrilled that we may now refer to our recent graduates as our colleagues,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “This is a tremendous achievement and a special moment in the lives of each of our graduates, and we couldn’t be more proud to have 119 new Campbell lawyers practicing in good faith across our state.”

In all, 74.97% of total first-time test takers from North Carolina law schools passed the examination, a 3.43% increase from July 2013. Of all applicants that sat for the bar exam, including out of state and repeat candidates, 62.27% passed, a 1.05% decrease from a year ago.

“Campbell Law graduates continue to perform well on the state bar exam because it’s ingrained in our institutional culture,” said Campbell Law Director of Academic Support & Bar Success Sha Hinds-Glick. “When combined with our rigorous curriculum and the commitment of our faculty and staff, it’s no surprise that our graduates consistently excel year-in and year-out.”

Recent graduates attend swearing-in ceremony

Fifty graduates from the Campbell Law Class of 2014 participated in a swearing-in ceremony at the law school on Oct. 10. The Honorable Paul Gesner (L ’91), the Honorable Kendra Hill, and the Honorable Paul Ridge-way (L ’86), all North Carolina Superior Court Judges, administered the oath of office and led the swearing-in of Campbell Law alums who recently passed the July 2014 North Carolina Bar Examination.

The ceremony offered graduates the opportunity to be sworn in as attorneys with the North Carolina State Bar at their alma mater with their family, friends, professors, classmates, and peers encouraging them and sharing the occasion. Each graduate took the oath of office as an attorney at law to support the Constitution of the United States.

Message from Dean J. Rich Leonard

Campbell Law’s advocacy program has historically been one the hallmarks of our institution. Years ago the American Academy of Trial Lawyers declared our trial advocacy program as the best in the nation, and our students have continued that tradition of success. In the spring of 2013 alone our advocacy program competed for three national titles. Advocacy Program Director & Assistant Professor Dan Tilly has done a remarkable job growing and nurturing our program since joining the law school faculty.

It comes as no surprise then that our advocacy program has been invited to participate in two of the most prestigious competitions in the country this year, including the National Institute of Trial Lawyers’ Tournament of Champions and the National Civil Trial Competition. Only 16 schools are annually invited to each of these stellar tournaments.

A year ago eight of the area’s top law firms were generous enough to provide financial gifts supporting competitive teams from our advocacy program. Much to our delight, Ogletree Deakins, Wynick Robbins Yates & Panton, Martin & Jones, Stubbs & Perdue, Oliver Friesen Cheek, Payne & Spruill, and Ward & Smith have already agreed to sponsor teams this year.

The impact of these gifts cannot be understated as they allow our students to excel outside the classroom and acquire valuable experience in a courtroom setting.

Campbell Law School
225 Hillsborough Street, Suite 101
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall was honored by Campbell University’s National Alumni Association as a 2014 Distinguished Alumni during homecoming festivities on Oct. 17.

B. Davis Horne, Jr., has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2015 for Administrative/Regulatory Law and Government Relations Practice.

Jack Capitano has joined Horack Talley in Charlotte, N.C.

Paul Meyer has been named North Carolina League of Municipalities Executive Director.

Ulmer Zack “Zeke” Bridges, III, was appointed to the Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina Board of Directors.

Hilton “Hutch” Hutchens was appointed to the Fayetteville Technical Community College Board of Trustees.

Hunter Eddins Gentel joined Oxner + Permar, PLLC, and was also appointed Zebulon Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors President.

Jessica Vickers has joined Manning Fulton & Skinner, P.A. in Raleigh, N.C.

Anna Hedgepeth has been elected to the Literacy Council of Wake County Board of Directors.

Kenzie Rakes has joined Shanahan Law Group in Raleigh, N.C.

N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall to serve as 2015 commencement speaker

North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall will deliver the commencement address at Campbell Law School’s 37th annual hooding and graduation ceremony on Friday, May 8, 2015. The celebration is scheduled for 10 a.m. at Meymandi Concert Hall at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Raleigh.

“I am incredibly honored to be giving the address this year,” said Marshall. “Obtaining my law degree from Campbell has allowed me to reach a level of public service I once thought I could never achieve,” she added. “Campbell gave me the skills and knowledge to become a successful attorney, plus its sterling reputation pushed away some barriers for me before I had to confront them on my own.”

A 1981 graduate of Campbell Law, Marshall was the first woman ever elected to a state-wide, executive branch office in North Carolina. She has served as the N.C. Secretary of State since 1997.

Marshall has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in state and local politics. From 1993-94 she served as a senator from North Carolina’s 15 District and was the Harnett County Democratic Party Chair and president of the Democratic Women of Harnett County. She was also the National Secretary of the Young Democrats of America in the 1970s.

In May 2008 Marshall delivered the 122nd commencement address at Campbell University and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Marshall has also received honorary doctorates from Lees-McRae College, Meredith College, and the Republic of Moldova Testemitanu State University of Medicine.

Class of 2013

CLASS OF 1981

CLASS OF 1984

CLASS OF 1995

CLASS OF 1997

CLASS OF 2003

CLASS OF 2005

CLASS OF 2006

CLASS OF 2012

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

Martin & Jones, PLLC
Ogletree Deakins
Oliver Friesen Cheek, PLLC
Poyner & Spruill, LLP
Stubbs & Perdue, P.A.
Ward & Smith, P.A.
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
Dean Leonard named Lawyer of the Year by N.C. Lawyers Weekly

Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard was named 2014 Lawyer of the Year by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly at the Leaders in the Law awards banquet on Sept. 19 at the Raleigh Marriott City Center. Previously announced as a Leaders in the Law award recipient, Leonard was selected as the 2014 Lawyer of the Year by a vote of an independent panel of judges.

“I am beyond humbled and deeply honored to receive this award,” said Leonard. "I've been fortunate to work alongside any number of successful professionals throughout my career; both in the legal profession, throughout the judicial system, and at Campbell Law and the greater Campbell University. I would not be where I am today without the encouragement and support of my peers and colleagues, and I am thankful to them for putting me in a position to succeed at every turn.”

Since he began serving as dean of Campbell Law in July 2013, Leonard has initiated a plethora of beneficial and impactful initiatives that have improved the institution. Under his guidance the law school vastly increased its already generous scholarship program, performed a top-to-bottom review of its curriculum, identified nine specific practice areas, partnered with leading local law firms to sponsor competitive advocacy program student teams, and began exploring the expansion of clinical programs, including the recently established Stubbs Bankruptcy Clinic. Campbell Law has also announced its Campbell Flex admission program, Campbell Law Connections mentorship program, Certificate in Patent Law, and two advanced international certificates with the University of Reading under Leonard’s direction.

Campbell Law facility honored as one of the nation’s best by preLaw magazine

Campbell Law’s downtown Raleigh campus has been tabbed as one of the 55 best law school facilities in the nation by preLaw magazine. In selecting institutions for inclusion, the magazine assessed aesthetic, square footage per student on campus, library hours, number of library seats per student on campus, and amenities—including dining options, parking, and lockers.

Of the seven North Carolina law schools, Campbell Law is one of only two to make the cut. The complete list is available via the preLaw magazine website.

“It’s no secret that we have a spectacular campus and an outstanding location,” said Campbell Law Dean J. Rich Leonard. “Our facility is one that our faculty, staff, students, and alumni all take pride in, and I hope that our friends in the downtown Raleigh community do as well.”

Campbell Law relocated from its native Buies Creek to its current location at 225 Hillsborough Street in downtown Raleigh prior to the 2009-10 academic year. With approximately 110,000 total square footage of space, the facility boasts a 268-seat library, a wireless network throughout campus, study carrels and lockers, student parking at and adjacent to campus, a chapel, bookstore, coffee shop, and offices for several student organizations.

Campbell Law Pro Bono Council adds four new projects

Eager to expand its reach into the local community, the Campbell Law Pro Bono Council has added four new projects to its portfolio. The Capital Area Teen Court Project, The Child’s Advocate Project, the Veterans Project, and the Wills/Advance Directives Project are all new additions that add upon the group’s five initiatives currently in operation.

Capital Area Teen Court gives first-time youth offenders a second chance, while also holding them accountable. Through this project, Campbell Law student volunteers will attend Teen Court hearings to assist with the court proceedings, serve as positive role models for youth offenders, and mentor youth attorneys as they present their cases.

Under The Child’s Advocate Project Campbell Law students assist pro bono attorneys in representing children in high conflict custody cases referred to The Child’s Advocate/Legal Aid of N.C. by the Wake County Family Court.

In collaboration with Legal Aid of N.C., Campbell Law students work with volunteer attorneys to provide legal information and assistance at local Stand Down Events to help veterans with various legal issues through the Veterans Project.

The Wills/Advance Directives Project pairs Campbell Law students with private attorneys volunteering with Legal Aid of N.C. to interview clients and assist with drafting appropriate documents, including Wills, Power of Attorneys, Health Care POAs and Living Wills.

Campbell Law finishes as national runners-up at NITA Tournament of Champions

A team of five Campbell Law student advocates finished as national runners-up at one of the most prestigious trial advocacy competitions in the country. Third-year students Terry Brown, Lauren Fussell, and Kaitlin Rothecker, and second-year students Zoe Hansen and Meredith Mercer reached the final round of the National Institute of Trial Advocacy (NITA) Tournament of Champions, Oct. 16-19, at Baylor School of Law in Waco, Texas. The team’s participation in the event was sponsored by Wyrick Robbins Yates & Ponton LLP.

One of the premier mock trial competitions in the country, only 16 law schools are invited to the Tournament of Champions each year. Invitations are based on a three year performance record at the National Trial Competition (NTC), the American Association of Justice (AAJ) Trial Competition and previous Tournament of Champions competitions. Over the past three years, Campbell Law teams have collected four regional NTC titles and finished in the AAJ national top 10.

Campbell Law’s team entered the semifinals as the second-seeded team having previously collected 10 of 12 ballots. Yale, UC-Berkeley, and Denver rounded out the field. In the semifinals, Campbell Law faced a strong, posed team from Denver. At the conclusion, the presiding judge announced that Campbell Law would be advancing to the national championship final round. Due to the fact that UC-Berkeley and Campbell Law had previously squared off in the preliminary rounds, the teams were required to try the opposite side of the case against each other in the finals.

The championship round was judged by seven well-regarded Texas trial lawyers, all of who remarked on how incredibly close the trial was between the teams. At the conclusion of the championship round, Campbell Law was named national runners-up.

Froehling named a Women of Justice award winner

Campbell Law Director of Student Life & Pro Bono Opportunities Beth Froehling has been selected as a 2014 North Carolina Lawyers Weekly’s Women of Justice award recipient. Froehling will receive her award on Nov. 13 at a reception at the Raleigh Marriott City Center.

“I am honored to have been selected by North Carolina Lawyers Weekly,” said Froehling. “Pro bono and public service is an integral part of our mission at Campbell Law, and to be recognized for success in those areas is especially rewarding because I have been fortunate to work alongside our students on many public service projects. I hope this award will bring more attention to the great work our law school is doing for our neighbors in the Raleigh area.”

At Campbell Law, Froehling works directly with student leaders and the institution’s more than 20 student organizations. She also oversees and manages the law school’s pro bono efforts.

Over the course of the past year, Froehling has led Campbell Law and its students in numerous community outreach and service initiatives, including the NC Bar Association’s Feeding Frerray challenge, in which Campbell Law placed second among law schools in the state, and the Adopt-A-Family for Christmas initiative to assist children in need. She has also led student group fundraisers for the Wounded Warrior Project, Legal Aid of N.C., First Tee of the Triangle, Dress for Success, and the Special Olympics. During orientation for first-year students this past August, Froehling organized a 11 Day of Service in which more than 200 volunteers from the Campbell Law community assisted local organizations across the Raleigh area.

Brown collects N.C. State Bar’s Annual Student Pro Bono Service Award

Anitra Brown, a 2014 Campbell Law graduate, is a recipient of the North Carolina State Bar’s Annual Student Pro Bono Service Award. Brown was honored for her pro bono work as a third-year student last year at the North Carolina State Bar’s 50-Year Lawyers’ Luncheon on Oct. 23 at the Raleigh Marriott City Center Hotel.

“I’m humbled to be recognized by my profession for pro bono service,” said Brown, who passed the North Carolina Bar Exam on her first attempt this past July. “As far as I’m concerned, however, the honor really goes to my team of dedicated students who stood behind the new vision, our director of student life and pro bono opportunities, the faculty members who made pro bono a priority, and Dean Leonard who made increasing pro bono opportunities one of his first goals as our new leader.”

Brown served as the director of Campbell Law’s Pro Bono Council as a third-year student during the 2013-14 academic year. Under her leadership, the Pro Bono Council added four new pro bono projects to its portfolio, including The Reentry Project, Child Permanency Appeals Project, Navigator Healthcare Project and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Project, while continuing to operate the Domestic Violence Advocacy Project. Brown was instrumental in assisting the Campbell Law administration with the creation of new policies and procedures for the development and implementation of the new pro bono projects.

The annual award was instituted by the North Carolina State Bar many years ago in an effort to recognize the public service being rendered by law school students.

Professors Jones, Sawchak published in North Carolina Law Review

Volume 92 of the North Carolina Law Review features two scholarly articles penned by Campbell Law faculty. Assistant Professor Amos Jones authored The “Old” Block Corporate Bar: Durham’s Wall Street, 1898-1971, while Practitioner in Residence Matt Sawchak authored Refining Per Se Unfair Trade Practices.

Jones’s article analyzes the existence, expansion, prosperity, and influence of Durham’s “black corporate bar” from the early 1900s through the mid-century. Campbell Law graduates Devone Purter (L’13) and Walker Douglas (L’14) both assisted Jones with the piece.

Sawchak’s article explores the notion of “per se unfair trade practices” and the confusion that sometimes arises from this concept. Several Campbell Law graduates and current students contributed research to Sawchak’s piece, including Emma Cullen (L’14), Scottie Beth Forbes, Lauren Fussett, Katie Green (L’14), Kathleen O’Malley, Kenzie Rakes (L’13), Lauren Suber, Jamie Thomas, Lauren Travers, Chris Waivers (L’14), and Robert Weston (L’14).

Jones teaches and writes in the areas of civil rights, religious freedom, legal ethics and contracts, focusing on contemporary conflicts resulting from competing liberties enshrined in the U.S. Constitution. A vigorous public advocate, Jones has advised Republic of Georgia scholar-practitioners on liberty provisions of the constitution framed after that country’s Rose Revolution of 2003, and delivered expert testimony at an oversight hearing in Washington, D.C., on the most effective ways to improve enforcement of D.C.’s Human Rights Act of 1978. Before coming to Campbell Law, Jones practiced in the international trade and commercial litigation groups of Bryan Cave LLP in Washington, D.C. Prior to entering the legal profession, he was a journalist for Pulitzer Prize-winning newspapers in Georgia, Kentucky, New York, and North Carolina.

Sawchak is the first Practitioner in Residence at Campbell Law. Business North Carolina magazine has profiled Sawchak twice as the top antitrust lawyer in North Carolina. He has been certified as a specialist in appellate practice by the North Carolina State Bar. He is also described as a leading lawyer in Benchmark Litigation, Benchmark Appellate, Best Lawyers in America, SuperLawyers and Chambers USA.

As one of his many scholarly and professional activities, he serves as an editor of the American Bar Association’s Antitrust Law Journal. North Carolina SuperLawyers recently named Sawchak to its annual Top 10 list of leading North Carolina Lawyers.

Sawchak’s article, Refining Per Se Unfair Trade Practices, is featured in the December issue of the North Carolina Law Review. It examines the historical background to the Supreme Court’s 1977 decision in Hecht Co. v. Atwater Co., when the Court upheld an antitrust penalty for a “per se” violation of the Sherman Act.

In a departure from the Court’s usual treatment of the Sherman Act, the Justices in Hecht Co. held that a per se violation could be distinguished from a rule of reason violation. In essence, the Court signaled that, when deciding on the legality of allegedly anticompetitive business practices, the Court would follow a burdensome, two-step analysis, while ignoring a variety of factors that had long been considered relevant to the decision-making process.

Their approach was controversial, and in that same year, the Court reversed its decision in that case. Still, the decision set the stage for an extended period during which the Court has used its broad per se authority to conclude that a variety of business practices were per se unlawful, while it methodically used the rule of reason to evaluate allegations of anticompetitive behavior.

Sawchak’s article explores the notion of “per se unfair trade practices” and the confusion that sometimes arises from this concept. Several Campbell Law graduates and current students contributed research to Sawchak’s piece, including Emma Cullen (L’14), Scottie Beth Forbes, Lauren Fussett, Katie Green (L’14), Kathleen O’Malley, Kenzie Rakes (L’13), Lauren Suber, Jamie Thomas, Lauren Travers, Chris Waivers (L’14), and Robert Weston (L’14).

Every gift to Campbell Law makes a difference.

For more information about giving opportunities, contact:

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