Mach has been said and written about effective organizational leadership during times of change. Other than Campbell Law School’s founding in 1976, there probably has been no greater time of change than our upcoming move to Raleigh. There are a multitude of move-related issues to be managed, including the design and renovation of the law school’s new home in Raleigh, our $27.5 million campaign goal, student recruitment, faculty and staff transitions, and the list goes on and on.

Managing change is indeed complex, but one thing is certain: the probability that any significant organizational change is going to succeed comes down to effective planning, involvement of key stakeholders and maintaining a commitment to excellence.

I am pleased to report that the execution of our transition plan is being managed meticulously by Campbell University leadership while numerous law school graduates are stepping forward to assist with our campaign goals via our leadership cabinet and class gift committees. However, as you will read in the text below, I am most proud that our internal commitment to excellence continues to shine through the outstanding work of our students, faculty and alumni.

We are embracing the opportunities that change is affording Campbell Law School for continued growth, development of our students and involvement in our community.

Ken Starr Encourages Law Students to Serve, Lead

Holding up a USA Today, after apologizing for bringing a publication of the sort into a respectable audience – and gleaning laughter from the amused crowd – Dean Ken Starr turned his attention not to the flashy headlines, but small black and white print imbedded deep within.

“Where great lawyers are made

Dean Ken Starr of the Pepperdine School of Law

Jan. 30 as part of the 2007-08 Professionalism Lecture Series. To date, this year’s Professionalism Series has hosted legal luminaries such as Joseph Cheshire V, Professor Robert Cochran, Gen. William K. Suter, clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, and Charles L. Becton.

“Yes, many in my generation betrayed this noble profession. It is your job to reclaim it,” he said.

In closing, Starr challenged the Campbell students to start thinking now about how they can help others, model what it means to be a servant leader, and ultimately reclaim the “noble profession” of law.

Scholarship Luncheon Connects Students and Donors

Campbell Law School honored its endowed scholarship donors and student recipients with a luncheon on Feb. 19 in the Marshbanks Hall Alumni Room.

The program included three third year student speakers, Chris Watford, Mica Nguyen and Jennifer Kerrigan, as well as a keynote message from Law School Dean Melissa Essary. Student speakers stressed their appreciation to scholarship donors for their investments. “I simply would not have been able to attend Campbell Law without the significant scholarship support that I received,” stated Jennifer Kerrigan. “The generosity of others has made such a tremendous difference in my life.”

“Scholarship funds are paramount to the success of Campbell Law students,” said Dean Essary. “During the 2007-08 academic year, over 90% of law students depended on scholarships, loans and campus employment to fund their education at Campbell. To learn more about scholarships at Campbell Law, please contact Britt Davis, Director of Development, at 910-893-1811 or davis@law.campbell.edu

Coming event: Family/Law Day

Family Day and Law Day will be held jointly on March 15. The Family Day program will be hosted on the Baxes Creek campus on the morning of March 15 where the families of current students will have time to interact with faculty and learn more about the Campbell Law program. Brad Bannon, ’97, of Cheshire Parker Schneider Bryan & Vitale will speak to attendees. The Law Day program will be hosted at the Raleigh Sheraton on the evening of March 15. Lt. Col. V. Stuart Couch, ’96, Judge for the Navy/ Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, will provide the evening’s keynote address.
Campbell Selects Nationally Acclaimed Architects for New Raleigh Location

In anticipation of Campbell University’s Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law’s summer 2009 move to downtown Raleigh, the school has retained Shepley Bulfinch of Boston, Mass. and Small Kane of Raleigh, N.C. to design and oversee the renovation of its future location. Campbell Law’s selection of the two firms is the next step in bringing its $27.5 million dollar building project to Raleigh, which is currently the largest U.S. capital without a law school.

Campbell University and School of Law leadership selected an innovative partnership between Shepley Bulfinch and Small Kane that will leverage the expertise of both firms. Shepley Bulfinch, founded in 1874, has designed some of the nation’s leading law schools and expansions, including projects at Georgetown University Law School, Marquette University Law School, Elon University School of Law, and Harvard Law School, among others. Small Kane enjoys a reputation as one of Raleigh’s top design firms for business and education.

“Shepley Bulfinch is a highly respected firm of national reputation and Small Kane has distinguished itself within the Raleigh community with skillful designs and project implementation,” said Campbell School of Law Dean Melissa Essary. “This creative partnership will allow Campbell Law to utilize the exceptional talents of these firms to design a world-class law school in downtown Raleigh. The new Campbell Law building will be a signature legal education facility in North Carolina’s capital city.”

Alumni in Service: Brad Bannon, ‘97

The Duke Lacrosse case made headlines across the nation in 2006-07. Brad Bannon was a defense attorney in the case and ultimately changed the course of events with his DNA discovery. Bannon led the defense team’s work with the DNA evidence. He sought nearly 2,000 pages of data underlying the testing and spent nearly 100 hours studying it and educating himself about DNA analysis. He eventually found that the prosecution had withheld evidence of multiple male DNA taken from the accuser that did not match the falsely accused players. Bannon exposed the exculpatory results and the prosecution’s intentional failure to disclose them in a pre-trial hearing where he had to question the prosecution’s DNA expert without notice.

Bannon attended the University of South Carolina and graduated with a degree in English. He began Campbell Law School in the fall of 1994 and clerked during law school for prominent North Carolina attorney, Joseph B. Cheshire V.

After graduating, Bannon was admitted to practice law in North Carolina in 1997 and remained at Cheshire’s firm as an attorney where he focuses on criminal trial defense and appeals.

Bannon is a member of the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers and the current Chair of the Academy’s Criminal Defense Section. He is also the Legislative Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the North Carolina Bar Association. He has written and lectured on various topics related to criminal trial practice and has worked with others on recent efforts to improve North Carolina’s criminal justice system and Rules of Professional Conduct related to criminal trial practice. Bannon has received numerous recognitions for his work, and, in 2005, Governor Michael F. Easley appointed him to serve a four-year term on the five-member North Carolina Inmate Grievance Resolution Board.

Campbell Law Innocence Project Event Affects Students, Draws Media

On Jan. 21, the Campbell Law Innocence Project welcomed guest speakers Christine Mumma and Dwayne Dail to speak on campus about their experiences.

Dwayne Dail tells of his experiences; Christine Mumma in background

Dail served 18 years in prison for the 1987 rape of a 12-year-old girl in Goldsboro until DNA testing revealed his innocence. He was exonerated and released from prison on Aug. 28, 2007, making him the 207th person freed nationwide by DNA testing.

“He is not the only story out there,” said Mumma, executive director of the North Carolina Center on Actual Innocence, in reference to Dail’s heart wrenching tale. Mumma served as Dail’s attorney after receiving his letter at the Center back in 2001.

“We were deeply honored to host Christine Mumma and Dwayne Dail here at Campbell Law School,” said Dean Melissa Essary. “We were moved by Dwayne’s riveting story and affected by his and Christine’s passion for justice.”

Television media throughout the region aired information about the Jan. 21 presentation at Campbell University.

Law Student Panel Discusses, “Is America Ready for a ’Non-Traditional’ President?”

On the heels of the Feb. 4 “Super Tuesday” primaries, five diverse student groups from Campbell University’s Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law came together to discuss a question on many minds: “Is America ready for a ’non-traditional’ president.”

The Feb. 7 event was moderated by Phil Isley, a Raleigh city councilman and managing partner in the firm of Boyle & Isley PLLC. “I loved my time in law school,” he said, enthusiastically. “And I’m excited to be at Campbell to moderate this panel. We in Raleigh are so excited for Campbell’s coming move to downtown.”

“I am delighted that our students are engaged in the active debate of our society’s readiness to accept a non-traditional leader as commander in chief,” said Britt Davis, director of development. “And with Councilman Isley moderating, the dialogue was focused and insightful.”

The event was covered by Carolina 14 news.

Winter 2008 PreLaw Magazine Features Law School’s Raleigh Move

Campbell Law School was prominently displayed on a two-page spread in the Winter 2008 issue in the article “Campbell University moves to the big city.” The School was also listed in the issue’s feature, “Most political law schools,” based on student assessments of political leanings of the student bodies. Campbell was ranked No. 8 in the “Students Lean to the Right” list, sharing space with nationally recognized legal education programs such as Notre Dame, University of Alabama, George Mason University and Louisiana State University, among others.

Dean Essary Honored as a Triangle Impact Business Leader of the Year

Dean Melissa Essary has been honored by Business Leader magazine as one of twenty-four Triangle Impact Business Leaders of 2007-08. Essary, who joined Campbell Law as dean in August of 2006, was chosen for her tremendous effort in bringing the school to Raleigh. She was the only woman selected as well as the only leader from higher education selected for the 2008 honors. According to Vera Simms, publisher of Business Leader, the award recognizes recipients’ tremendous achievements and contributions their companies have made to the Triangle business community.

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