From the Dean’s Desk

It is hard to believe that I am winding down my first year as Dean of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law. The past months have been a whirlwind of activity, but I’m energized by the opportunity to lead this fine institution into its next era. For the coming academic year, applications for admission to the Fall 2007 class were up 8% over last year, even as applications nationally were down 3%, evidencing the desirability of a Campbell School of Law education.

In an effort to stay connected with law school alumni and friends, we have opted to create this short newsletter that will be circulated six times a year. We hope you will find it informative.

This is an exciting time in the history of Campbell Law, and we look forward to keeping you updated on our progress and involved with our projects. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance to you.

From the Dean’s Desk

Commencement 2007: 109 J.D. Degrees Awarded to the Class of 2007

The Campbell School of Law conferred 109 Juris Doctor degrees at a graduation hooding ceremony on Sunday, May 13, 2007. Bob Crumley, CEO of Crumley and Associates, extended this year’s hooding ceremony address. Crumley and Associates is the largest consumer law firm in North Carolina, and more than one-third of the firm’s attorneys are Campbell School of Law graduates.

Graduates received their diplomas during the commencement ceremony held Monday, May 14. Honors were awarded to students who ranked in the top ten percent and to those with a cumulative average of 86.00 or higher. The Class of 2006 led all law schools in the state with a 97% passage rate on the North Carolina Bar Exam.

Campbell Law Wins National Moot Court Competition

A dynamic team from the School of Law won the 2007 William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition held at the University of Minnesota Law School. The team of Jamie Gentry, Stephanie Evans, and Jennifer Kerrigan finished first in the country and also won the Best Brief award. Each of these students are members of the Class of 2008.

The National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition is one of the nation’s oldest and most prestigious appellate advocacy competitions. Thirty-six teams from law schools across the U.S. participated in this year’s rounds, held in Minneapolis on March 1-3, 2007, including teams from the University of Michigan, Georgetown University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Notre Dame, the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin, Brigham Young University, and Ohio State University.

“Six out of the seven teams they beat were from top forty law schools,” said Prof. Gregory Wallace, one of the team’s faculty coaches. “Campbell students once again have proven that they are among the best in the nation.”

Graduating Class of 2007

Focus on scholarships in 2007-08
Update on the much discussed potential move to downtown Raleigh
Recruiting associates via Career Services
Profile of the incoming class of 2007-08…and more!
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
Lord receives Dean’s Excellence in Research award

Professor Richard “Rick” Lord was awarded the Campbell University Dean’s Excellence in Research award in May 2007, for his article, “The At-Will Relationship in the 21st Century: A Consideration of Consideration,” published in the fall 2006 Baylor Law Review. The 70-page article examines the at-will employment relationship, under which many Americans are employed.

“Professor Lord is a nationally known expert in contracts law and a prolific scholar,” said School of Law Dean, Melissa Essary, as she presented the award. “He is devoted to the law and to Campbell School of Law, and he is eminently deserving of this recognition.”

Keep in Touch! alumni.law.campbell.edu

Ever wonder what happened with many of your classmates or have a desire to keep in touch with old faculty friends?

The official Campbell Law Alumni Community, an online resource for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, has been created exclusively to allow all members of the Campbell School of Law family—past and present—to find and network with one another, register for alumni events, provide and receive alumni mentoring, donate exclusively to the law school online, build personal webpages, and much more. More than 600 of the law school’s 2,600 alumni are currently registered.

To receive your username and password, please contact Shonagh McCauley in the School of Law Alumni Relations Office at shonagh@law.campbell.edu or 800-334-4111 x1883. Learn more at www.alumni.law.campbell.edu.

Alumni in Service: Judge Kristin Ruth’s Alternatives to Incarceration Lead to Collections in Wake County

The threat of going to jail—or going to jail—for failure to pay child support is just a temporary fix that most district court judges use in collecting child support. The daunting task of trying to persuade non-custodial parents to work and pay their child support obligation is one of the most difficult for judges’ daily work with individuals from the hardest-to-serve population.

In hopes of breaking the cycle, Judge Kristin Ruth (Campbell School of Law, 1990) and Judge for the 10th District Court in Wake County, Raleigh, NC, has, through her orders, incorporated many state and county resources already available to the public, as well as implemented an innovative approach to the collection of child support. By collaborating with the following local resources and maintaining frequent court reviews, child support collections continue to increase in Wake County, generating substantive social and economic benefits:

“Working for Kids,” a non-custodial parent/employment program:

- Puts more money into the family unit.
- Puts back arrears both to the state and to the custodial parent.
- Increases taxes paid to Wake County, the state, and IRS due to employment.
- Infuses money into the local economy.
- Early intervention reduces need for social services.
- Working parents are role models for children.
- Family members’ self-esteem is raised if parents are working.
- Research indicates that children’s school performance improves when this quality of life is improved.

Carolina Dispute Settlement Services, voluntary mediation, and access to custody and visitation clinics:

- Prevents unknown numbers of potential conflicts from ever reaching the level of court intervention.
- Reduces the number of cases in the court system for judges, clerks, staff, and administrative personnel.
- Encourages positive communication with families and visitation of children that correlates with the non-custodial parent paying child support.
- Helps address the barriers mothers and fathers face in being able to financially support their children.
- Significantly saves the state, county, and taxpayer dollars in a time of financial crisis.

“Electronic House Arrest” (EHA), an alternative to incarceration:

- Reduces jail overcrowding.
- Total jail cost-avoidance savings for 2003 of $1.84 million and 2004 of $1.75 million in Wake County.
- Encourages persons placed on EHA to participate in court-ordered resource and life skills programs, to work, pay child support through wage withholding, and to be accountable for their situation.
- Reduces absconding subsequent to court hearings, restricts unproductive behaviors, and encourages and motivates the non-custodial parents to be financially accountable to their child or children.

Judge Ruth’s vision is to set a new national standard for the collection of child support. In April 2007, she trained 11 judges from ten states on how to run a problem-solving child support court. Children should not suffer financial hardships when resources are available and alternatives to incarceration are affordable and cost effective. Judge Ruth’s model exemplifies an outstanding commitment to service and problem solving in Wake County.