Alumni Headnotes (1972 - 2001)  

College of Law History

Fall 1982

Alumni Headnotes (Fall 1982)

University of Tennessee School of Law

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John Sebert: Winick Fellow

John Arthur Sebert, Jr., Professor of Law at the University of Tennessee, has been designated as the first Winick Fellow. He has received a research stipend from the Winick Legal Research Fund, which was established by a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard E. Bernstein of Knoxville to honor the memory of Ben R. Winick, a 1918 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Law.

While a student, Mr. Winick helped found the organization which has now become the Legal Clinic. After serving in the Judge Advocates' General Corps of the U.S. Army in World War I, Mr. Winick returned to Knoxville where he practiced law for 46 years. Mrs. Bernstein is his daughter.

Bernard Bernstein graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1958. A member of the school's Alumni Advisory Council, he also contributed his time as state chairman of the law school's Tennessee Tomorrow capital development campaign. He is a partner in the Knoxville firm of Bernstein, Susano, Stair & Cohen.

The Winick Legal Research Fund was established to enable selected faculty members to engage in legal research and service projects which will benefit the administration of justice, legal scholarship, and the community. Professor Sebert is co-authoring a coursebook entitled Remedies: Cases, Problems and Materials on Damages, Equity and Restitution. He earned his J.D. in 1967 at the University of Michigan, where he graduated magna cum laude and was elected to Order of the Coif. A UT professor since 1974, Professor Sebert has also taught law at the University of Minnesota and the University of Michigan. Among his previous publications are an article on Remedies under Article Two of the Uniform Commercial code in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review and an article on Enforcement of State Deceptive Trade Practice Statutes in the Tennessee Law Review. Commercial law, contracts, and, of course, remedies are Professor Sebert's primary teaching and research interests.

1983 TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF TRIAL ADVOCACY
AUGUST 4-9, 1983
UT COLLEGE OF LAW
MARK YOUR CALENDARS, NOW!

Semester System a Success

Although the decision to switch to a semester system did not come easily, the benefits appear to outweigh the minor problems that were encountered during its inaugural year. The major reasons for the switch justify the decision. Both faculty and students have remarked that this system allows them more time to fully explore the subject-matter of each course. The reading assignments can now be consistent with the casebooks' design. Graduates are no longer at a disadvantage in the job market, because they are now available as early in the Spring as are graduates of 85 percent of the other law schools in the country. There were a few rough edges that the law school's administrative staff had to smooth out, such as university housing, parking, and fee payments, but the University has been very cooperative in helping to find solutions.

First Ridenour Fellowship Awarded to Joe King

The Clinton law firm of Ridenour, Ridenour, Ridenour, Ridenour, Bowers, Shumate, McCloud & Lacy pledged $25,000 over a five-year period for faculty development at the University of Tennessee College of Law. Given in honor of the firm's founder, J. Carson Ridenour, the gift has been used to establish a Ridenour Fellowship in Law for outstanding professors. The first recipient is Professor Joseph H. King, Jr., who has been with UT since 1973.

The stipend from the fellowship enabled Professor King to engage in extensive research over the summer for an upcoming publication. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Professor King earned his J.D. in 1970 from the University of Pennsylvania. His primary teaching and research interests are Medical Malpractice and Social Legislation, and among his many publications are articles on causation and medical malpractice in the Yale Law Journal and Houston Law Review. Professor King is a regular Lecturer for the College of Veterinary Medicine, and he is the author of The Law of Medical Malpractice in a Nutshell.

When the award was made, Dean Kenneth L. Penegar noted the importance of a gift such as the Ridenour Fellowship for salary supplements which allow legal academicians to pursue significant advances in the current body of legal knowledge.

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GARY L. ANDERSON spoke at a Knoxville Bar Association and Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers program held in June on the subject of the Tennessee Criminal Sentencing Reform Act of 1982. He completed an article on the Preliminary Hearing for the Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice, scheduled for publication in 1983 by the Free Press of New York. Gary was also Planning Chairperson and Faculty Member of the Sixth Annual Tennessee College of Trial Advocacy.

DAVID BRENNAN addressed the East Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Information Science on the topic of Computerized Legal Research. In April, 1982, he also spoke to the UT Library Faculty at a seminar on Cooperative Library Programs.

NEIL COHEN conducted a one-day in-service training program in May, 1982 for Tennessee Parole Officers and Administrators at Paris Landing State Park. He is completing a treatise entitled Law of Probation and Parole to be published by Shepard's McGraw/Hill (co-authored with Jim Gobert).


JERRY J. PHILLIPS' speaking engagements over the past year include the Cookeville, Tennessee bar (July), the University of Arkansas (October), and New York University (November). He also gave a speech in a Louisiana Continuing Legal Education program in July, 1982. He has had articles published this fall in the Indiana and Idaho Law Reviews, and expects three more to be published in 1983 by the law reviews of the University of Arkansas, New York University, and Missouri-Columbia.

DEAN HILL RIVKIN led a workshop on the topic of "The Use of Other Disciplines in Teaching About Law Practice" at the Southeastern AALS Conference in August, 1982. He has completed a chapter entitled, "TVB, the Courts, and the Public Interest" for a forthcoming book sponsored by the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies. At the 1982 ABA Annual meeting, Dean was elected to the Council of the Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. He has been appointed to a three-year term on the AALS Professional Development Committee. Planning Chairperson of the 1982 AALS National Clinical Teachers Conference held at the University of Minnesota Law School in June, 1982, he also delivered the keynote paper for the Conference entitled, "The Dialectics of Lawyering and Learning." Dean is lead counsel representing a low-income consumer organization in Tennessee Valley Energy Coalition v. TVA (M.D. Tenn., filed October 6, 1981).
The Westlaw computerized legal research system was recently installed at the College of Law, in place of our LEXIS terminal. Although the systems are essentially similar, Westlaw offers a few refinements which appear to be well suited to the academic environment.

Located in the Law Library, the system provides computerized access to the full text of federal and state court decisions, to the United States Code, and to the large body of federal regulatory law. In addition, state attorney general opinions dating back to 1977 are available for Tennessee and seven other states.

Specialized federal libraries in various fields are also available through the system — securities law, taxation, antitrust and business regulation, government contracts, bankruptcy, patent law, copyright law, communications law, labor law, Delaware corporation law, and military justice. Finally, Shepard's Citations and the Forensic Services Directory are also available.

Several new library additions are planned for the near future, including insurance law, federal energy law, and Black's Law Dictionary. A library named Eurolex will soon be made available, which will provide access to a growing collection of English, Scottish, and European legal materials.

Computer searching can be an effective supplement to traditional “manual” searching. In effect, the computer user serves as his or her own “indexer” in directing the computer to retrieve only those documents which satisfy the user’s own subject criteria. In addition, a computer can be used to conduct searches which would be all but impossible to perform using manual methods. For example, it is possible to instruct Westlaw to search only for decisions of a particular United States Circuit Court or District Court, or to retrieve all decisions decided by a particular judge, or to retrieve only decisions in which a particular attorney or firm served as counsel.

Westlaw is similar in operation to other “on-line” computer systems: key words (search terms) relating to your subject or legal issue are typed in on a keyboard. The search terms are then “transmitted” to the central databank in St. Paul, Minnesota by pressing an “enter” key. The computer responds to your request by displaying on a video screen the first page of the first retrieved document. “Browsing” through the retrieved documents is accomplished by again pressing appropriate keys on the terminal keyboard.

Persons who become familiar with computer searching usually find that both methods of research, traditional and computer, have relative advantages and disadvantages. In the Westlaw system, however, the ability to use the familiar West Company topics and key numbers as search terms allows some of the true advantages of traditional manual research to be realized when using the computer.

Under the terms of the agreement with West Publishing Company, use of the system at present is restricted to University of Tennessee students, faculty, and staff. However, arrangements are currently being made whereby private attorneys and other persons will be able to use the system on a fee basis.

**ENTER: WESTLAW**
By John Siro,
Law Reference Librarian

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**Visiting and Adjunct Faculty**

JANE BROWN will be at the University of Tennessee for the Fall of 1982 and the Spring of 1983 teaching Research & Writing. She graduated Cum Laude from Harvard Law School in 1978 and was an Associate of the New York firm, Sullivan and Cromwell, for three years.

ROBERT H. MARQUIS, Professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, is once again a Visiting Professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law, teaching Legal Process. The former General Counsel for TVA is commuting between Little Rock and Knoxville to conduct his class.

ROBERT E. PRYOR and THOMAS S. SCOTT, JR., practicing attorneys in Knoxville, are members of the Adjunct Faculty. They are instructing Trial Practice for those many students who want a taste of courtroom work at law school. Both Mr. Pryor and Mr. Scott have been members of the Tennessee College of Trial Advocacy faculty since 1978.

We welcome them to the faculty!
Dare To Be Great . .

Tonight you are also initiated into one of the greatest fraternities in the world: a fellowship of men and women who labor in the public interest. Whether you are chosen to go to New York and become an associate in a 150-member firm or to hang out in a hamlet of rural Tennessee, the bond borne out of mutual concerns and interests will always be shared.

You have chosen a life of excitement, whether your field is taxes and trusts or the law and who share with you a common bond. You have chosen not to be mere clerks, but to make a difference. The Codes of Hammurabi, Justinian, the Ten Commandments, the Magna Carta, and our own Constitution have only been stepping stones along the path.

Only 4,000 years ago, we settled our differences with clubs as cavemen, and now we stand at the edge of nuclear holocaust unless the Rule of Law prevails. We must acknowledge the awesome responsibility which is ours today . . .

(Editors' Note: This is a condensed version of the Law School Hooding Address delivered by Chattanooga attorney John K. Morgan for graduates in the Spring of this year.)

Dare to be great or without much effort you can be mediocre.

Lawyers are the administrators of the affairs of mankind.

Tonight, you receive a degree which carries with it many titles including, but not limited to: Attorney at Law, Solicitor in Equity, Proctor in Admiralty, and other much less flattering names. Throughout your professional life, no title is more awesome than advocate nor more humbling than counselor, for you will be called upon to advocate for the rights of your clients and to counsel them with more solemnity than their priests. Regardless of the place of your practice or the nature of your specialty, you have chosen to assist mankind in the conduct of his affairs on this earth from the cradle to the grave. It is not a job, it is a sacred calling.

During the Dark Ages and continuing through the Middle Ages, the rights of individuals were generally subservient to the will of the crown or the church and to disagree was not only to lose your fortune, but also your life. Rights and liberties have not come easy, but law and lawyers have made the difference. The Codes of Hammurabi, Justinian, the Ten Commandments, the Magna Carta, and our own Constitution have only been stepping stones along the path.

Law students across the country submitted papers investigating the federal government's liability for individuals who contract cancer from smoking. Ms. Williams' paper analyzed government liability based on its intense involvement in the production and marketing of tobacco. Observing that the government has made a stronger commitment to the production of tobacco than to the supervision of smoking, her paper notes that Congress has provided extensive services and financial subsidies to tobacco growers and has removed tobacco and tobacco products from the auspices of seemingly pertinent regulatory acts. According to Ms. Williams' analysis, since the government has also acted as a seller of tobacco, the harmful component of cigarettes, it is potentially liable for the harmful effects of smoking under products liability theories. Ms. Williams researched her paper as a part of a directed research project under the supervision of Professor Jerry Phillips.

As first place winner, Ms. Williams will receive a $2000 cash prize and a plaque, and her paper will be published in synopsis form in TRIAL, ATLA's national legal news magazine. The ATLA is the world's largest trial bar organization with more than 40,000 members throughout the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, and other countries.

Ms. Williams, who is originally from Durham, North Carolina, received the B.A. degree in psychology, 1977, from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. At UT College of Law, she was Executive Editor of the Tennessee Law Review. She will clerk for Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Robert E. Cooper beginning this September, after which she may find her future in commercial litigation.

Teresa S. Williams (Sigmon), who graduated this past semester from the University of Tennessee College of Law, has won the Twelfth Annual Environmental Law Essay Contest of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.
He graphically recalls riding a big, fat horse named "Charlie", who, when allowed a drink of water from a creek, suddenly decided to take a rest by plopping all fours down into the water. He still lives in the house his grandfather built in 1840. The house survived the Civil War, and he and his mother were both born there. She lived to be 99 years old; he is 92, he still writes briefs occasionally, and he tried a motion for summary judgment not too long ago.

"He" is Samuel J. Milligan, class of '12, of Greeneville, Tennessee. The home of President Andrew Johnson, Greeneville is a city which has made a place for itself in the history books, and its citizens are proud of that fact. Both in downtown Greeneville and in the surrounding areas, the old stands side-by-side with the new. In one block of downtown, there are about twenty lawyers' offices of all shapes and sizes, sandwiched between the Greene County Courthouse and the Federal Courthouse. The offices of Milligan, Coleman, Fletcher, Gaby (G.P., class of '66) & Kilday (Thomas L., class of '76) are in a modern five-story structure, the tallest building on the block. They handle mostly defense work for corporations and insurance companies.

Sam Milligan's grandfather was a Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Sam Milligan's father went into the cotton business. After earning his B.S. degree in 1910 from the widely respected Davidson College in Charlotte, North Carolina, Sam Milligan trained as an Army pilot. He flew Sopwith Camels and De Havillands in wartime. When he came to the University of Tennessee law school, the dean was Judge C. W. Turner, the librarian was Judge Turner's daughter, and the infamous John R. Neal served on the faculty. After graduating, he represented the insurance companies.

One hundred four Tennessee General Sessions Court Judges met in Gatlinburg in September for an educational program coordinated by the Public Law Institute. UT Professor Joseph Cook discussed "Searches of Closed Containers after United States v. Ross", and Grayfred Gray examined "Mental Health Law for General Sessions Judges".

The Tennessee Council of Juvenile Court Judges met at UT College of Law during August for their annual gathering for education and decision-making. Outgoing President Thomas Ingram welcomed many new judges to the Council, and two-and-a-half days of legal updates, service programs, and a mock hearing followed. At the banquet, Honey Alexander, First Lady of Tennessee, described the various innovative projects being conducted across the state to improve juvenile justice in Tennessee.

Judge Milligan believes that newer lawyers are better at their profession than their predecessors were, except, he observes, younger lawyers have difficulty being concise. In a letter, they may take several pages to say what could be said in less than one page.

He laments the passage of the modern discovery rules. In the old days, when there was no discovery, lawyers "got by on their wits." In the process of questioning a witness, it was much easier to get trapped or to proceed into a blind alley. Now that you have "to show your hand," trying cases is less a battle of wits and more costly. The endless rounds of depositions raise fees considerably in many cases.

Oral argument is very important, Judge Milligan asserts. He has several stories to tell of the varied ways in which he has seen arguments delivered before the bench, but he emphasizes that the art of a successful oral argument is focusing in on one or two crucial points. The proper focus may win or lose your case for you.

The judge can recount many an interesting detail of landmark cases in insurance law and a particular condemnation suit or a case in which the question of whether or not rain in a certain county in Tennessee could be considered an "Act of God" was in issue. Perhaps the most representative of his more humorous memories is a case in which the car belonging to a pair of gypsies was "rear-ended" by a car driven by Judge Milligan's client. The gypsies were a mother and son, and the mother had claimed serious injury in the suit. Judge Milligan was worried that the jury would be sympathetic towards the son's "dear, sweet mother," until he had a chance to ask the son one last question: "What did your dear, sweet mother say when the collision occurred?" The polite response was, "Sir, she said that if the g-d-----s--o--b----- had been watching where he was going, he never would have hit me." After the laughter throughout the courtroom had dissipated, the jury deliberated for less than one minute and returned with a verdict for Judge Milligan's client.
CLASS OF 41
GEORGE CHILD has retired from the Fourth Circuit Judgeship of Knox County.

CLASS OF 51
RICHARD RAY FORD has retired from the position of Knox County Criminal Court Judge Division II after serving twelve years in that capacity.

CLASS OF 57
ROBERT F. WORTHINGTON, Jr.'s role in bringing a successful World's Fair to Knoxville was recently brought to the public's attention in the July, 1982 issue of The American Lawyer. He is general counsel to the 1982 World's Fair and managing partner in the Knoxville firm of Baker, Worthington, Crossley, Stansberry & Wool.

CLASS OF 58
CLAUDE K. ROBERTSON has announced the formation of Robertson, Williams, Ingram, Faulkner & Overbey in Knoxville.

CLASS OF 59
RAY LEE JENKINS was elected judge of Knox County Criminal Court Division II, assuming the robes of office in September.

CLASS OF 60
CAREY E. GARRETT is the newly elected Juvenile Court Judge for Knox County.

CLASS OF 61
JENNINGS B. MEREDITH, Anderson County Juvenile and General Sessions Court Judge, is the 1982-83 President of the Tennessee Council of Juvenile Court Judges.

CLASS OF 62
ROBERT W. RITCHIE has been elected as the 1983-84 President of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. A Knoxville practitioner, Ritchie is the first attorney from Tennessee to be elected to this position.

CLASS OF 64
RICHARD L. HOLLOW is the 1982 recipient of the President's Award of the Tennessee Press Association.

CLASS OF 66
NORMAN H. WILLIAMS has announced the formation of Robertson, Williams, Ingram, Faulkner & Overbey in Knoxville.

CLASS OF 69
SHARON BELL is a newly elected General Sessions Court Judge for Knox County. She is a former State Representative.

CLASS OF 70
SHANNON D. FAULKNER, III has announced the formation of Robertson, Williams, Ingram, Faulkner & Overbey in Knoxville.

CLASS OF 72
J. EDWARD INGRAM has announced the formation of Robertson, Williams, Ingram, Faulkner & Overbey in Knoxville.

CLASS OF 74
D. VANCE MARTIN has joined the Knoxville firm of Harwell & Nichols in the general practice of law.

CLASS OF 75
WILLIAM "ED" DOSSETT was elected Attorney General for Knox County in August.

CLASS OF 76
BOB LYNCH has been made partner in the Nashville firm of Barksdale, Whalley, Gilbert, Frank & Milom. His diversified career has included experience in both the Justice Department and the Attorney General's office.

CLASS OF 77
SHANNON D. FAULKNER, III has announced the formation of Robertson, Williams, Ingram, Faulkner & Overbey in Knoxville.

CLASS OF 78
ROBERT L. LOCKABY, Jr. is leaving the Judge Advocate General's Corps to join the Chattanooga firm of Gearisher, Peters & Horton as an Associate.

CLASS OF 79
JAMES A. MARLOWE, Captain in the U.S.A.F. Judge Advocate Corps since March of 1980, was recently appointed Circuit Defense Counsel for the Air Force's Sixth Judicial Circuit. He is based in Frankfurt, Germany, but his circuit covers England, Germany, Spain, Holland, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. Captain Marlowe is a member of the bars of Tennessee, Georgia, and Washington, D.C.

CLASS OF 80
J. DOUGLAS OVERBEY has announced the formation of Robertson, Williams, Ingram, Faulkner & Overbey in Knoxville.

CLASS OF 81
SAM DAVIS ELLIOTT completed a year as law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Roger Dickson and joined the Chattanooga firm of Gearisher, Peters & Horton as an Associate.
ALUMNI ADDRESS CHANGE/NEWS INFORMATION

If your address or job status has changed, or will change in the near future, please let us know.

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Firm Name: ________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ________________________________

Phone: (______________)

This is my: □ Office Address
□ Home Address

Year of Graduation: ____________

Former Address: __________________________________________________

Alumni News: ______________________________________________________

CAREER PLANNING AND PLACEMENT

The Judicial Clerkship:  UT Graduates Gain Valuable Experience

Over the past five years, seventy-four (74) UT law graduates have clerked for a wide variety of United States, Tennessee, and other state court judges. Ten (10) different U.S. District Court Judges, four (4) U.S. Circuit Court Judges, three (3) U.S. Magistrates, two (2) U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judges, and two (2) Administrative Law Judges have utilized the services of many UT alumni. Tennessee Supreme Court Justices Brock, Cooper, Drowota, and Fones have all had clerks who graduated from UT since 1975. No less than thirteen (13) different Tennessee Court of Appeals Judges and four (4) Tennessee Court of Criminal Court of Criminal Appeals Judges have hired UT graduates.

The following survey of placement statistics illustrates the range of experience clerkships offer.

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<th>Court</th>
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<th>U.S. District Court</th>
<th>U.S. Bankruptcy Court</th>
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<td>Administrative Law Judges</td>
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with next year's entering class we will shrink 20 seats in the entering class, for two years, with the result that we will have an overall enrollment of 560. We believe this is consistent also with the evident trend of admissions and thus we will be able to preserve a fairly strong entering class, as competitive as in the recent past.

Use of endowment funds. One of the greatest things to happen in my eleven years here has been the culmination of the three-year effort known as the Tennessee Tomorrow Law Campaign. This produced pledges from over 400 alumni amounting to $1.5 million. As of this writing approximately two-thirds of these pledges have been paid. The yield from these funds is going to support a number of major qualitative objectives. First, the addition of three named professorships, the doubling of our number of scholarships, a one-hundred percent increase in the number of our faculty summer research stipends, and major support for an active regional and national moot competition program.

Continuing needs. We have, despite these considerable gains, continued to see our relative position among major law schools in our region stay about the same or worsen slightly in terms of faculty salaries. We have also seen the deterioration of our ability to stay abreast of acquiring the needed books and other material appropriate for a research library of our stature. We shall continue to need your help in pressing forward to solve these two problems in particular.

The building. We have deferred some years mentioning limitations of space, both quality and extent, for the obvious reason that we had higher programmatic priorities. The time has come, I believe, now for us to share with you the need your school has in improving its physical premises. As you know, the Taylor Law Center is composed of essentially two buildings. One built in 1950, the other in 1970. The marriage of the two has always been awkward. We are now finding particular problems with the quality and size of our classrooms (the average size of the classes has increased with the move to the semester system), and the quality, indeed the almost total absence of space for audiovisual and small group moot court participatory kind of courses, and lastly, the almost total absence of accessible and dignified lounge space conductive to informal faculty and student interaction. I say this cognizant of the fact that the University has been very helpful in refurnishing the old part of the building on a rolling basis ever since my administration began. As good as it was, the renovation simply did not deal with the basic problem of inadequate space and its internal arrangement. This is something I have shared with the Alumni Advisory Council, and hopefully you will be hearing more about it in the not too distant future.

The Clinic. I am happy to report that despite national retrenchment in the area of legal services and despite the fact that we have separated the Clinic from the legal services program in downtown Knoxville, the Legal Clinic remains a strong, viable, and exciting part of our total effort here. With increased assistance from the University's budget through the leadership of our Chancellor, Jack Reese, staff positions which were formerly on federal money have been shifted to the University budget, and consequently our faculty and professional staff in the Clinic for educational purposes is almost as strong as ever. Nearly all students who want at least one clinical course are able to get it during their senior year. A strong adjunct to this program has been the greatly expanded trial advocacy program in which a number of prominent Knoxville attorneys participate as teachers.

The market. Another of the most exciting developments here in recent years has been the steady and rapid growth of the number of firms and agencies coming to interview our students on campus. When coupled with available interviewing opportunities with major national firms and agencies in our Atlanta Consortium every fall, our students have opportunities equivalent to most major law schools in our region for considering a great variety of first-rate openings in the legal profession, not merely statewide but regional and national as well. In this regard, one of the lesser known features of our placement efforts, and one that I am particularly proud to be involved with, is the increasing number of our graduates who are successful in obtaining judicial clerkships in the state and federal systems. These are significant plums in the annual competitive hustle of law school graduates. It seems fair to say we are getting a recent share of them!