

SPOTLIGHT ON TENNESSEE LAW SCHOOLS

This year at the Nashville School of Law...

By Chelsea Nicholson

This year marks the third year for the Nashville School of Law's new campus on Armory Oaks Drive. I was part of the inaugural class that occupied the building in 2005, and I have watched fellow students, professors and visiting speakers adjust to the school's new home. The trickiest thing seems to be the new "high-tech" computer projector screens. I have seen many distinguished judges and lawyers from all over Middle Tennessee try to figure out how to work them. Some are better than others. One thing is for sure: we are all learning!

This year, the Nashville School of Law Legal Society hosted three guest lectures with practicing lawyers and NSL graduates, including Charles M. "Chip" Cain, Metro Law Director Sue B. Cain, Charles M. Duke and Doug Thurman. These lectures offer an opportunity for students to hear about the practical side of practicing law. There is always an abundance of graduates willing to speak to students about the law and how to get started making a career out of our chosen profession. The lectures are open to all students, who very much enjoy hearing lawyers' tales from night law school alumni.

The Nashville School of Law also maintained its lead over Tennessee's three other law schools in recruiting the most student members to join the Tennessee Bar Association. With 44 new members joining, the school was 22 percentage points ahead of its closest rival based on the total number of new student members who joined this year.

Also this year, the students' favorite constitutional law professor, Tennessee Court of Appeals Judge William Koch, became Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Koch. After the appointment, we thought there would be some kind of change: either our prof would be taller or the outline would get tougher. But we were relieved to find even though the title changed, he had not.

The annual NSL Recognition Dinner will end the 2007-2008 school year. Another class will say farewell and head out into the world of practicing law in their chosen fields. But in the fall, the doors will open again to new night law students, just as they have since 1911.

We've come a long way from the old YMCA building, but the learners of law by night will continue business as usual.

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