



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**From the Tennessee Bar Association**

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**UT Law Student Named  
Law Student Volunteer of the Year**  
*Award presented to Chris Sanders at capitol ceremony*

NASHVILLE, Jan. 23, 2007 — University of Tennessee College of Law student Chris Sanders recently received the 2007 Law Student Volunteer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Bar Association at its annual public service luncheon at the Tennessee State Capitol. Held as part of the association's leadership conference, the luncheon took place in the state capitol rotunda and featured award winners in several categories as well as a keynote address by Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell.

As a first-year law student, Sanders wasted no time in volunteering with the UT Pro Bono program. He worked with the Family Justice Project, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Project and the Saturday Bar Clinic, ultimately becoming the clinic coordinator in his third year. When Knoxville began receiving evacuees from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Sanders organized a contingent of law students to work with the Red Cross to assist victims. As a third-year student looking forward to graduation, Sanders developed a pro bono pledge, which allows graduating students to make pledges of pro bono service as their class gift. He conceived the idea, secured the administration's endorsement, designed promotional brochures and arranged a luncheon — complete with a speech by the chief justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court — to kick off the project.

Sanders currently clerks for Judge Thomas Varlan of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee and continues to market the pro bono pledge to new attorneys. His personal dedication to public service as well as his willingness to motivate colleagues to do their part exemplifies the ideals of the law student volunteer award.

The Law Student Volunteer of the Year Award is given annually to a Tennessee law school student who has performed outstanding volunteer service by working with an organization that provides legal representation to the indigent. Award recipients are nominated by the TBA Access to Justice Committee and approved by the Board of Governors. This year, the award was

presented to two law students: Sanders and Patti Garner of the Nashville School of Law. A photograph of Sanders is attached.

The Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) is the largest professional association in Tennessee with about 9,000 members. Founded in 1881, the TBA provides opportunities for continuing legal education, professional development and public service. The TBA's dedication to serving the state's legal community is evidenced by its membership roll, which represents the entire spectrum of legal practice: plaintiff and defense lawyers, corporate counsel, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, government lawyers and legal services attorneys.

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