

## SPOTLIGHT ON TENNESSEE LAW SCHOOLS

### **The University of Tennessee College of Law: New People, Same Tradition of Excellence**

By Rachel Ralston & Jill Shotzberger

The big news at UT is people, people, people. After eight years of service to the UT College of Law, Dean Tom Galligan is leaving Tennessee to become president of Colby-Sawyer College in New London, N.H. Although he will be greatly missed, excellent leadership will not be sacrificed as Dean John Sobieski will assume the position of Interim Dean for the next two years. The UT community anticipates continuing success under his leadership.

Other personnel changes include the retirement of Professor Neil Cohen following 34 outstanding years on the College of Law faculty. Professor Jerry Black will serve as Interim Director of Clinical Programs next year, and Professor Penny White will serve as Interim Director of the Center for Advocacy and Dispute Resolution. With the departures of Dean Galligan and Professor Cohen, the law school most likely will search for two new faculty members next year to teach courses in their areas of expertise – torts and evidence.

In the fall, three visiting faculty members will enhance the already excellent line up at UT. The first is Professor Ron Carlson, who holds the Fuller E. Callaway Chair of Law Emeritus at the University of Georgia School of Law. He is a nationally renowned expert in the area of evidence and will teach Basic Evidence and Advanced Evidence. The college also will host Professor Kai Xiao, a visiting professor of law from Shanghai Jiaotong University in the People's Republic of China, who will teach a Chinese law course as well as the International Business Transactions class. Finally, visiting practitioner Jonathan Friedland, a partner in the Chicago law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, will teach Business Associations and a seminar on Distressed Businesses.

In the spring, Robert Blitt will join the UT College of Law faculty to teach international law. Blitt brings incredible experience to this position. After earning an MA, JD and LL.M. from the University of Toronto, he clerked for President Aharon Barak of the Supreme Court of Israel, and served as an attorney advisor to the Department of International Agreements of the Ministry of Justice in Israel. He currently is an international law specialist with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedoms in Washington, D.C.

While there may be several new faces at UT in the coming year, many aspects of the College of Law will remain the same. The Moot Court Board continues to host two intramural competitions for law students, and last year ten moot court teams represented Tennessee nationally in areas of law ranging from bankruptcy to constitutional law. The College of Law's three journals, the *Tennessee Law Review*, *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law* and *The Tennessee Journal of Law and Policy* continue to thrive. Student organizations also continue to raise awareness and funds for

philanthropic causes. The Student Bar Association hosted a successful event this spring raising money for the Allen Novak Emergency Loan Fund, while Law Women sponsored a chili cook-off to raise funds for the Maasai American Organization, which sends young women to boarding schools in Kenya. The Law Women also donated \$1,400 to the Tennessee Woman's Suffrage Memorial that will be unveiled this August at Krutch Park in Knoxville.

And our future looks bright. This fall, the first-year class will consist of 156 students who were chosen from 1,388 applicants. The College of Law welcomes the outstanding academic achievements of the class of 2009 and looks forward to their contribution to the UT community.

*Rachel is a rising 3L at UT and is employed by Hunter, Smith and Davis LLP in Kingsport. At school, she is managing editor of Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law, a Westlaw representative and past president of Law Women. She can be reached at rralston@utk.edu. Jill is a rising 2L and is working for the American Civil Liberties Union in Raleigh, N.C. She is a Student Bar Association representative and the current president of Law Women. Jill can be contacted at jshotzbe@utk.edu. The authors also actively participate in UT's Pro Bono Program through the Saturday Bar and the Tennessee Innocence Project.*