

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TENNESSEE LAW SCHOOLS**

### **Nashville School of Law: New Building, Same Mission**

By Patti Garner and Marge Haines

In the fall of 2005, the Nashville School of Law moved into its new state-of-the-art facility at 4013 Armory Drive. Located just around the corner from the previous campus, the new building boasts a 16,000 square foot education wing with an auditorium, four classrooms, two courtrooms with audience seating, three group seminar rooms, a library and computer lab, a spacious commons area with a two-story atrium, and an administrative area and boardroom. The classrooms all are equipped with wireless Internet access, microphones and overhead projectors. The moot courtrooms (one for trial court and one for appellate court) provide the students with the formal atmosphere necessary for clinical trial experience and training.

In addition to a new building, NSL has a new student organization. The Nashville School of Law Legal Society was founded just this year by a group of energetic students to promote the school and provide a source for networking. NSL students come from all over the state and a large percentage of them are employed full-time, juggling careers, families and school. These dynamics mean that an organization like the legal society is vitally important in creating a sense of community on campus. Since its inception, the legal society has hosted a series of guest lecturers, including Russell D. Gill, Esq., Judge Frank Clements and Lucinda Smith, director of the Nashville Pro Bono Program. The society also is working to provide mentors for interested students, host annual social events, and publish a law review journal with an emphasis on Tennessee law.

NSL students also are active in the various professional bars. NSL's student chapter of the Tennessee Bar Association, for example, has 112 student members – more than any other law school in the state. The school also has active chapters of the American Trial Lawyers Association and the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association.

With all of the new changes, the founding goal of the Nashville School of Law remains the same: providing an affordable legal education for men and women who cannot attend traditional law school because of work responsibilities. It was that mission that led Morton B. Adams, William P. Cooper, Lee Douglas and Robert Selph Henry to found the school in 1911. As recent graduates of the Vanderbilt Law School, they opened law classes at night at the Nashville Y.M.C.A. for the benefit of those unable to attend classes during the day. The school was incorporated on Jan. 19, 1927 and authorized to confer the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence. As an exclusively night school, NSL is the only law school of its kind in Tennessee, and the second oldest school of its kind in the U.S. In addition, NSL has prided itself on quality faculty throughout its history. Current faculty include judges from various courts, including the state supreme court and court of appeals, the federal district court and a number of county courts; as well as practicing attorneys who are recognized as masters in their chosen fields.

Today's student body remains committed to the mission of the school and to providing leadership in enhancing its reputation for the future.

*Patti and Margie serve as student liaisons to the Tennessee Bar Association. For more information about TBA activities at the Nashville School of Law, contact Patti at [PattiBGarner@aol.com](mailto:PattiBGarner@aol.com) or Margie at [MargeHaines@aol.com](mailto:MargeHaines@aol.com). Anyone interested in guest lecturing at the legal society should contact the society through its website at <http://www.nslsociety.org>.*