



PRESS RELEASE
From the Tennessee Bar Association

Contact:

Stacey Shrader
Media Relations Coordinator
sshader@tnbar.org
615-383-7421 or 800-899-6993

Tennessee Bar Center
221 Fourth Avenue N.
Suite 400
Nashville, TN 37219

**Nashville School of Law Student Named
Law Student Volunteer of the Year**
Award presented to Patti Garner at capitol ceremony

NASHVILLE, Jan. 23, 2007 — Nashville School of Law student Patti Garner of Sevierville recently received the 2007 Law Student Volunteer of the Year Award from the Tennessee Bar Association at its annual public service luncheon. 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 high school senior, Garner – now a 36-year-old mother of two – wanted to pursue an undergraduate and law degree but became a paralegal instead, working several years for lawyers in the Knoxville area. Ten years later, she took a bold step toward achieving her dream of becoming a lawyer and enrolled in college. Within months of completing her undergraduate degree, Garner began studies at the Nashville School of Law (NSL). For the last four years, she has commuted to Nashville for classes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays while working at the Sevierville law firm of Hickman Gray & Associates the rest of the week.

In addition to being an employee, a student, a wife and a mother, Garner is an effective volunteer. She has worked with Court Appointed Special Advocates since 1998, taking up the case of children in state custody and foster care. She volunteers for Safe Space, an organization that helps abused women. And she has interned in the Sevier County public defender's office. As a law student, Garner co-founded the Nashville School of Law Legal Society, the first non-Greek student organization in the school's history.

Garner, who will complete her legal education this spring, says her motivation for volunteering is being a good role model for her children. As recipient of the 2007 Law Student Volunteer of the Year Award, Garner also is an impressive role model for the Tennessee legal community.

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: Garner and Chris Sanders of the University of Tennessee College of Law. A photograph of Garner 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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