

Law School Update

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Courtesy Grant Halverson, Elon University

Law School Update Elon, Charlotte graduate first classes

Three pool of potential lawyers working in North Carolina became a little bit deeper this spring. It's when the state's two newest law schools — the Elon University School of Law and the Charlotte School of Law — each bestowed degrees to their first graduating classes.

Elon welcomed its first law students in the fall of 2006, and Dean George R. Johnson Jr. believes the group is headed for superb law careers.

"Our graduates are as well prepared to enter the profession as graduates of any other law school in the country," Johnson said. "We think that, in some ways, they may be better prepared. In addition to the rigorous academic preparation our students have undergone, they also have had very valuable practical experiences working in several different venues in Greensboro and beyond."



The Charlotte School of Law also began the instruction of its first class in the fall of 2006. Since then, the number of students enrolled has grown to more than 300. Last August, the school moved to its permanent location in west Charlotte, a state-of-the-art, four-story complex containing offices, clinics, a moot court and a library containing more than 100,000 volumes of material.

"Every day I find myself more and more enthusiastic about what we're doing now and what we have planned for the future," said Dennis Stone, dean of the Charlotte School of Law. "Our team has worked very diligently to create a personalized environment that inspires our students and keeps our faculty and staff equally fresh and excited about the law. So far, we have been successful."

Major Upgrades at Duke

Duke University Law School has completed a significant renovation to the J. Michael Goodson Law Library. A dedication included remarks by US Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy; a moot court competition judged by US Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, among others; and a series of panel discussions focusing on the economy.

The library renovation comes on the heels of the installation of Dean David F. Levi, the first dean of a top law school to come from the federal judiciary. One of Levi's top priorities was expanding Duke's law faculty, which now includes several international law scholars.

Wake Forest Expands Outreach

The Wake Forest University School of Law opened two new clinics at the end of last year.

The school's Community Law and Business Clinic provides pro bono legal and business consultancy services to a variety of small-business owners and nonprofit organizations, including those that develop or improve low-income housing in Winston-Salem and surrounding communities.

Also, the school unveiled the Innocence and Justice Clinic, which is designed to give students the unique opportunity to examine the legal, scientific, cultural and psychological causes of wrongful convictions. Students will apply their knowledge to actual cases by reviewing and investigating claims of innocence by inmates and, where appropriate, pursuing legal avenues for exoneration and release from prison.



NC Central Welcomes Chief Justice

It was no ordinary moot court competition earlier this spring at the NC Central University School of Law. One of the members of the panel presiding over the competition was Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

The Supreme Court's top judge came to Durham as part of journey that takes him to only a handful of law schools annually.

Pamela Glean, moot court competition coordinator and NCCU assistant dean for clinical and professional skills, said, "All of the students worked very hard, sacrificed and carried the weight of the reputation of this law school and they carried it very well."

UNC Receives National Accolades

The University of North Carolina School of Law was ranked ninth nationally by preLaw magazine because of its clinical and pro bono programs, loan assistance programs and the percentage of graduates who pursue public interest. The school also was named Pro Bono Law School of the Year by the Pro Bono Project for its continued efforts to help individuals in New Orleans who are still facing complex legal issues.

The school dedicated an additional \$200,000 to help mitigate student exposure to a difficult job market. UNC also launched its loan repayment assistance program in March for graduates with law school debt working in public interest.

Progress Energy Funds Clinic at Campbell

Progress Energy recently committed \$150,000 to the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University to help launch the Senior Law Clinic to serve legal needs of low-income senior citizens.

"We are extraordinarily grateful for this major commitment from Progress Energy," said Dean Melissa Essary. "Having the support of one of Raleigh's bedrock corporations is significant to our efforts. This clinic will make a tremendous difference in the lives of low-income seniors and their families."

The clinic not only will serve the elderly but also will give valuable practical experience to Campbell's law students.

"We look forward to working with Campbell Law and its students and faculty to serve an important and sometimes overlooked group throughout Raleigh and the Triangle," said John McArthur, executive vice president and general counsel for Progress Energy. "Our company strives to support organizations and programs in the communities where our employees and customers live and work."

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