

amicus

MC SCHOOL OF LAW
SUMMER 2026

THE LAWYERS BEHIND the LIMELIGHT

A BACKSTAGE PASS TO
FRASCOGNA LAW GROUP





OPENING STATEMENT

There has never been a more exciting time for MC Law. Our July 2025 Mississippi bar pass rates led the state and were the highest in our school's history. Our Career Services Department was recently recognized by *preLaw Magazine* as the most improved in the nation. *US News* ranked MC Law #26 in the country for federal clerkship placements. The 2025 incoming class was the highest credentialed in school history, and applications are already up 25% for next year.

We are grateful for these accomplishments and honors, but we are not satisfied. As we celebrate our 50th Anniversary year, MC Law is looking ahead to the next 50 years and beyond. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19) Our mission is to build on our past successes while delivering an innovative curriculum that equips our graduates with a decisive advantage in the technology-driven economy of the 21st century.

In addition to honoring our past, this edition of *Amicus* highlights two groundbreaking initiatives at MC Law. You'll read about the launch of our new Center for AI Policy and Technology Leadership (CAPTL). MC Law's

CAPTL received \$1.2 million in funding to lead the way in informing our state leaders on the legal and policy dimensions of AI. MC Law is also pioneering legal education for the AI era. We are the first in the Southeast and the second in the nation to require AI certification for all first-year students.

This issue of *Amicus* also highlights the debut of our Center for Sports, Entertainment, and Arts Law (SEAL). Mississippi typically ranks at the top of states producing the most professional athletes, authors, and performing artists per capita. The Frascogna Law Group, led by an all-MC Law partnership team, has built a national reputation in representing and advising these athletes and artists. Through the SEAL Center, the Frascogna Law Group and MC Law are joining forces to train the next generation of sports and entertainment lawyers.

***FOR 50 YEARS, MC LAW HAS
RAISED THE BAR. AND WE'RE
ONLY GETTING STARTED!***

Dean John P. Anderson

amicus

Amicus
Summer 2026

Dean
John P. Anderson

Special Assistant
to the Dean,
Advancement
Randy Pierce

Alumni Coordinator
Katie Henderson

Editor
Lauren Wells

Contributing
Editor
Marlo Kirkpatrick

Designer
Alecia Porch

Photographer
Robby Followell

Contact *Amicus*
151 James H. Meredith Dr.
Jackson, MS 39201
601.925.7149
lawpr@mc.edu



36

The Statutes
that Shape
the Spotlight



46

All in on AI



50

Charting the
Future of
Health Law

2

Commencement 2026

6

A Legacy Honored

10

A Law School that
Raises the Bar

12

Welcome to Campus

16

50 Years on the Rise

40

All Rise

54

Faculty Focus

58

Law & Honor

60

Generosity in Bloom

62

Class Actions

64

Closing
Statement



On the cover: All of the partners
with Frascogna Law Firm are MC Law
alumni. From left: Alexis Rayford '20,
Mike Frascogna III '05, Marty Frascogna
'05, '09, Shawnassey Brooks '99,
X.M. "Mike" Frascogna '72, Founder
Read the story on page 24.

COMMENCEMENT

2026

MAY 15, 2026, was a day of celebration as 102 MC Law students became MC Law alumni. Commencement ceremonies were held at First Baptist Church of Jackson.







“Fear is the mind killer.”

“Fear will tell you that you’re not ready. Fear will tell you that if you fail, it defines you. Fear will whisper that the safest path is the best path...[But] history shows us again and again that progress is rarely a straight line. It’s shaped by setbacks, by recalibration, and by the courage to keep going.

“You’re graduating at a moment when the world doesn’t need more people who are afraid to fail. It needs people who are willing to try. To risk. To stand up, speak out, and take responsibility – even when the outcome isn’t certain.

“It needs people who understand the law isn’t just about winning arguments. It’s about serving people and setting precedents and growing a legal landscape through successes and failures that generations can build upon.

“Don’t measure your life by how often you succeed. Measure it by

how often you’re willing to try again. When you lose a case – learn from it. When you make a mistake – own it. When you fall short – get back up.

“Because the people who shape history...The people who serve others well...The people who make a lasting difference... They’re not the ones who never failed. They’re the ones who refused to let failure be the end of their story.”

Excerpted from an inspiring keynote address by Mississippi Treasurer **David McRae** ‘10. State treasurer since 2020, McRae also serves on the boards of both the National Association of State Treasurers and the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, and is a member of the Mississippi Bar. Before taking office, he was managing partner of McRae Investments. During his time at MC Law, McRae served as Chief Justice of the Honor Court.





***“OUR MOTTO AT
MC LAW IS THAT WE OFFER
A LEGAL EDUCATION,
ONE RELATIONSHIP
AT A TIME...”***

You know that you are loved by every single member of this law school, and this is only the beginning of our beautiful friendship.

MC Law is family. We look forward to continuing to aid and support you in all your future successes. Enjoy this day with the family that surrounds you.”

EXCERPTED FROM MC LAW DEAN JOHN ANDERSON'S
ADDRESS TO THE CLASS OF 2026



A Legacy Honored



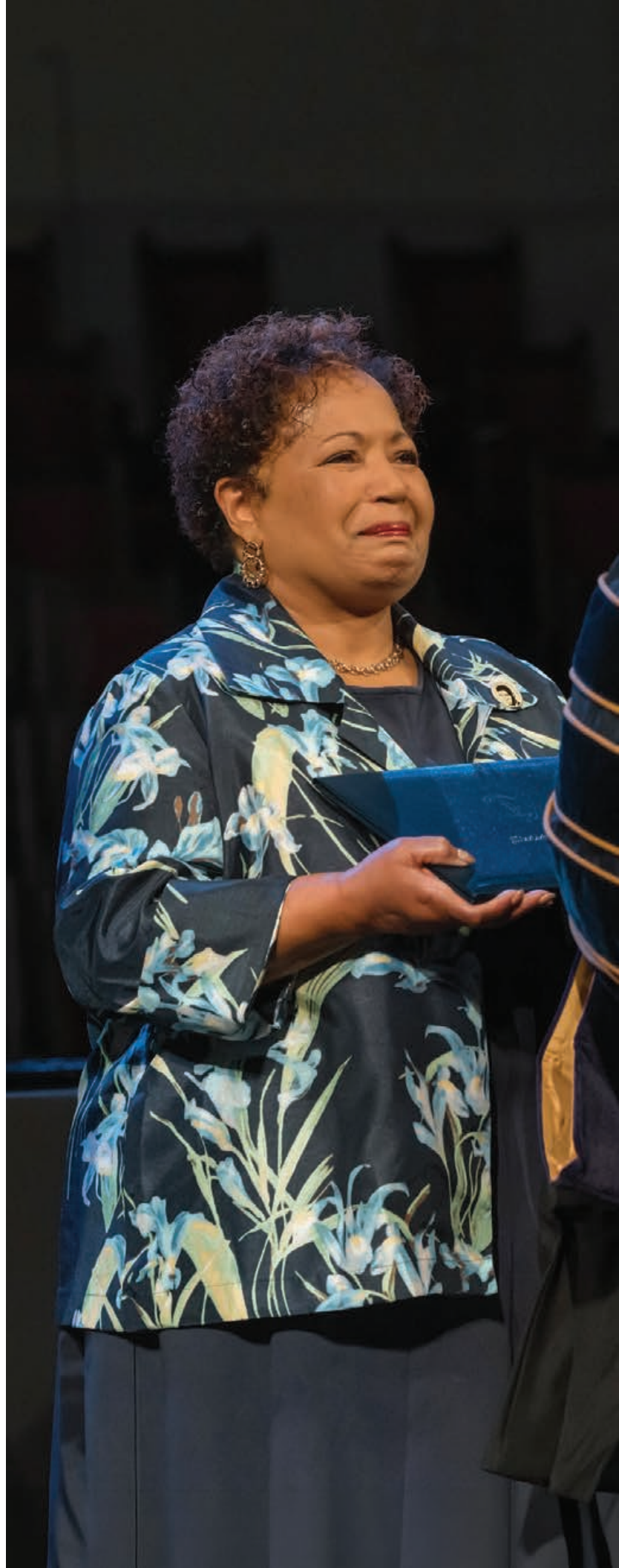
THE MC LAW COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INCLUDED THE PRESENTATION OF A POSTHUMOUS HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS DEGREE TO SLAIN CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST MEDGAR WILEY EVERS.

Members of the Evers family accepted the degree on Evers' behalf, along with a framed citation commemorating Evers' life, leadership, and impact. The ceremony also included a video message from Evers' widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams.

The first NAACP field secretary in Mississippi, Evers was a World War II veteran and a graduate of Alcorn State University. He applied to the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1954 as the first Black applicant in the law school's history. Evers was denied admission on a technicality under Mississippi's segregationist policies.

Although he was never admitted to law school, Evers went on to advance the cause of "justice for all" in ways that many practicing attorneys would not have had the courage to attempt. On June 12, 1963, Evers was assassinated in the driveway of his Jackson home. His assassination was a catalyst for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Evers was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, in 2024.

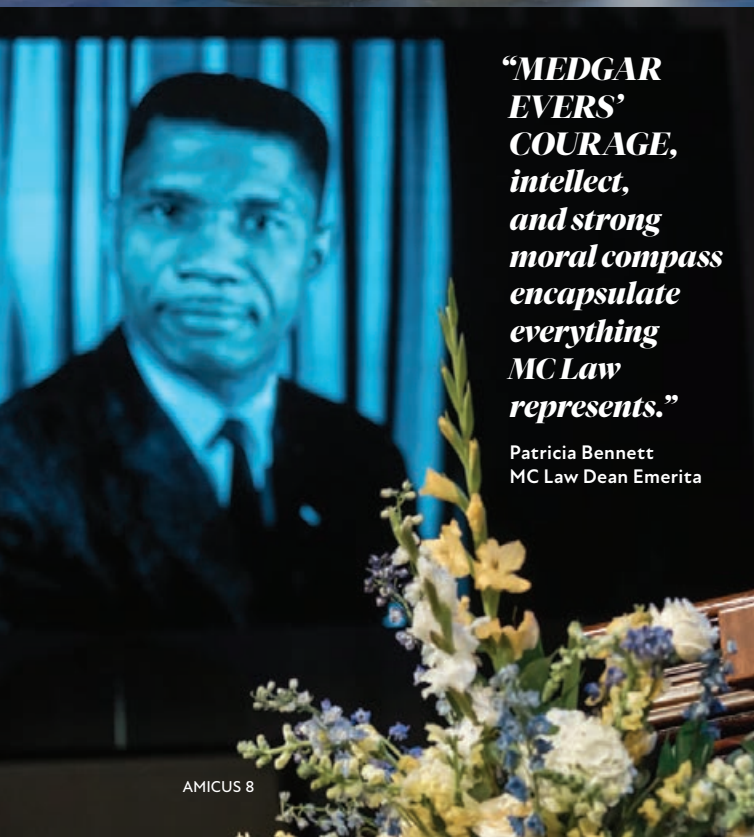
Right: Reena Evers-Everette, daughter of Medgar Evers, accepts a posthumous honorary doctor of laws degree on her father's behalf from MC President Dr. Blake Thompson and MC Law Dean John Anderson.





“THIS HONOR MEANS SO MUCH TO US AS HIS FAMILY, and it honors our father’s life and all that he advocated for in a powerful way.”

Reena Evers-Everette



“MEDGAR EVERS’ COURAGE, intellect, and strong moral compass encapsulate everything MC Law represents.”

Patricia Bennett
MC Law Dean Emerita

“It was a dream of our father to attend law school, but he was denied that opportunity,” said Evers’ daughter, Reena Evers-Everette. “That rejection fueled his passion to fight for desegregation in the South for the rest of his life. This honor means so much to us as his family, and honors our father’s life and all that he advocated for in a powerful way.”

Family members accepting the award included Reena Evers-Everette, Wanda Evers, and Carolyn Evers Cockrell. Chris Daniel ’02, who proposed the degree initiative and has long-standing ties to the Evers family, was also a part of the presentation.

“I felt a connection to Medgar as a fellow war veteran,” Daniel said. “It’s apparent to me that he would have been a great law student and lawyer had he been given the same opportunity I received.”

“MC Law is humbled and honored that our name will now be forever linked with that of Medgar Wiley Evers,” said MC Law Dean John Anderson.

Above: Dr. Mike Highfield, Chris Daniel ’02, Wanda Evers, Carolyn Evers Cockrell, Reena Evers-Everette, Dr. Blake Thompson, Dr. John Anderson



HONORING A MISSISSIPPI HERO

MC Law events honoring Medgar Evers included a May 14 luncheon and panel discussion on Evers' work and legacy, followed by an evening of celebration with the Evers family at Louise's Piano Bar in Jackson's Fondren community.

Luncheon Guest Speakers/Panelists

Attorney Courtney Cockrell
Attorney Corrie Cockrell-Carter
Myrlie Evers-Williams (recorded remarks)
Reena Evers-Everette
Judge James E. Graves, Jr.
Judge Carlton Reeves
Rev. Dr. C.J. Rhodes
Attorney Carroll Rhodes
Attorney Constance Slaughter-Harvey
Attorney Dennis Sweet

Moderators

Attorney Alveno Castillo
Attorney Vangela Wade

Luncheon catered
by acclaimed chef
Nick Wallace

Luncheon and Panel
Discussion Sponsors
Balch & Bingham LLP
Green & Associates
Magnolia Bar Association

Evening Celebration
Sponsors
Mississippi Center for
Justice (Title Sponsor)
Bordis Danos Pierce
Butler Snow
Chris and Michelle Daniel
Martin & Martin, PA
Mary and Alex Purvis







A LAW SCHOOL THAT RAISES THE BAR

89%

MISSISSIPPI BAR PASSAGE RATE,
THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE
For first-time takers in July 2025

93%

LOUISIANA BAR PASSAGE RATE
*For May 2025 graduates
taking in July 2025*

#1

FEEDER SCHOOL FOR THE
ELITE U.S. ARMY JAG CORPS
2024

#26

IN THE NATION FOR
FEDERAL CLERKSHIPS
U.S. News & World Report 2025

#8

MOST DEVOUT LAW
SCHOOL IN AMERICA
preLaw Magazine 2025

25%

RISE IN APPLICATIONS
for 2026-27, as of print date

**TOP
SCHOOL**

FOR FAMILY LAW
AND HEALTH LAW
preLaw Magazine 2025

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

70%

OF MISSISSIPPI'S
LEGAL WORKPLACE
IS LOCATED
WITHIN 10 MILES
OF MC LAW

48%

OF MISSISSIPPI'S
LEGAL WORKFORCE
IS LOCATED WITHIN
TWO MILES OF
MC LAW

75%

OF NEW STUDENTS CHOSE
MC LAW BECAUSE OF ITS
LOCATION IN DOWNTOWN
JACKSON, IN THE HEART OF THE
MISSISSIPPI LEGAL COMMUNITY



WELCOME TO CAMPUS

ON OCTOBER 1, 2025, MC LAW WELCOMED ALUMNI, FORMER FACULTY, MEMBERS OF THE LEGAL COMMUNITY, AND CITY AND STATE OFFICIALS TO CAMPUS FOR AN OPEN HOUSE AND LUNCHEON CELEBRATING THE LAW SCHOOL'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

More than 150 guests enjoyed tours of the campus and the chance to reconnect with old friends, former classmates, and professors who became mentors.

In attendance were several graduates of the Jackson School of Law (JSOL), the forerunner for MC Law, who were recognized as honorees. Founded in 1930, JSOL educated many prominent lawyers prior to becoming a part of Mississippi College in 1975. Speakers at the luncheon, including former Dean Mary Libby Payne, Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt, former Dean Patricia Bennett '79 Professor Larry Lee, Adjunct Professor Mike Frascogna '72, and Professor Matt Steffey, spanned the five decades of MC Law history.

Jackson School of Law graduate John Land '71 enjoyed a successful career as an attorney with a large firm, city judge, public defender, and captain in the JAG Corps. Land has visited the MC Law campus many times and was an honored guest at the open house.

"I attended the 50th anniversary celebration and proudly wore the 'Honorary Alumnus' nametag given to me by the hosts," Land said. "I was most grateful to Mississippi College for first voicing interest in JSOL back in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when I was a student there. My interest was heightened by the fact that MC was a Christian school. Justice, truth, grace, mercy, and love are each and together the essence of Christianity. These influences are most compelling in the study of law."

"I ATTENDED THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND PROUDLY WORE THE 'HONORARY ALUMNUS' NAMETAG GIVEN TO ME BY THE HOSTS. JUSTICE, TRUTH, GRACE, MERCY, AND LOVE ARE EACH AND TOGETHER THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTIANITY. THESE INFLUENCES ARE MOST COMPELLING IN THE STUDY OF LAW."

*JOHN LAND, 1971 Graduate of the Jackson School of Law,
Honorary Alumnus of MC Law*



WELCOME TO CAMPUS



Special Assistant to the Mayor
Jamal Sibley, Jackson Mayor
John Horhn, MC President
Blake Thompson, and MC Law
Dean John Anderson tour the
MC Law campus.



A LAW SCHOOL AND A CITY ON THE RISE

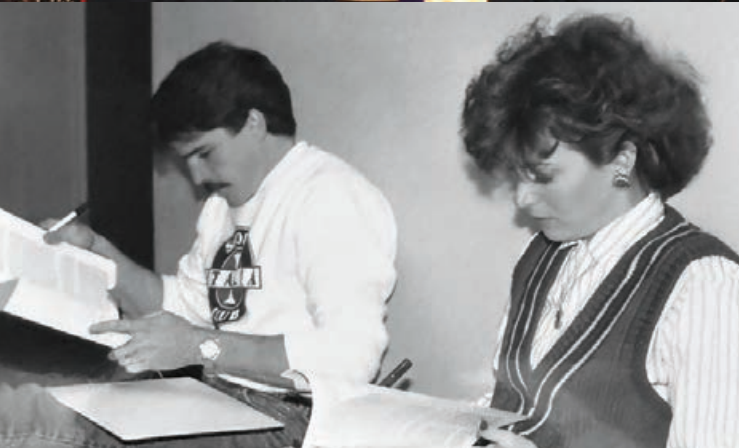
Jackson Mayor John Horhn toured the renovated MC Law campus in September of 2025. MC President Blake Thompson and MC Law Dean John Anderson led the tour, outlining plans for MC Law's continuing investment in downtown Jackson.

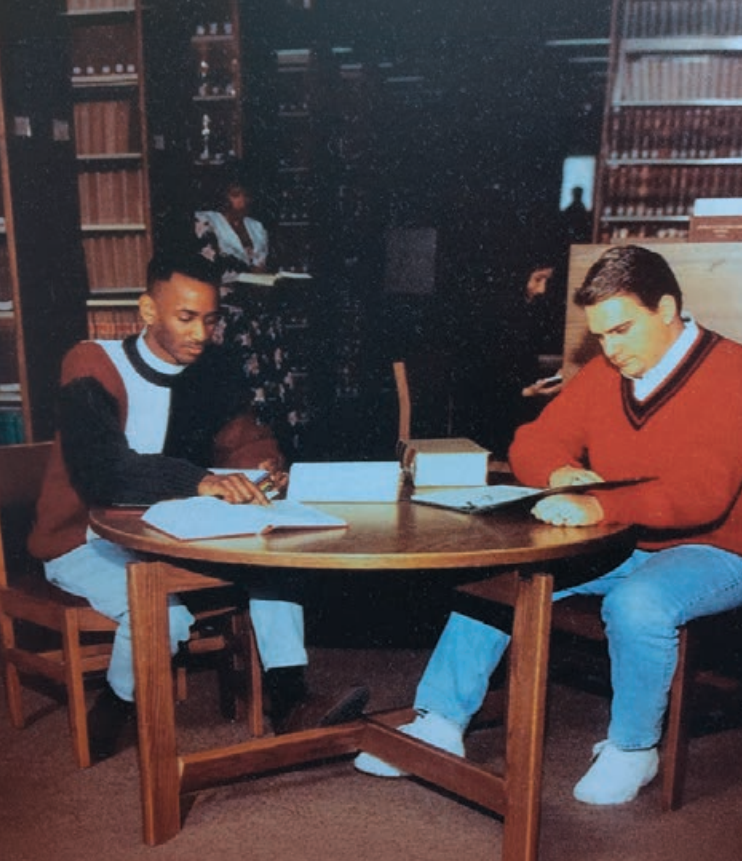
"MC LAW ATTRACTS BRIGHT STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY TO JACKSON, most of whom choose to stay in our state and build successful careers as advocates for Mississippians and Mississippi businesses. The law school's significant investment in downtown Jackson comes at a time when MC and the capital city are both on the rise. I'm excited to see the future of the legal profession taking shape here in Jackson."

JACKSON MAYOR JOHN HORHN









50

YEARS ON THE RISE

MC LAW CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AS A PART OF
MC AND 95 YEARS IN LEGAL EDUCATION



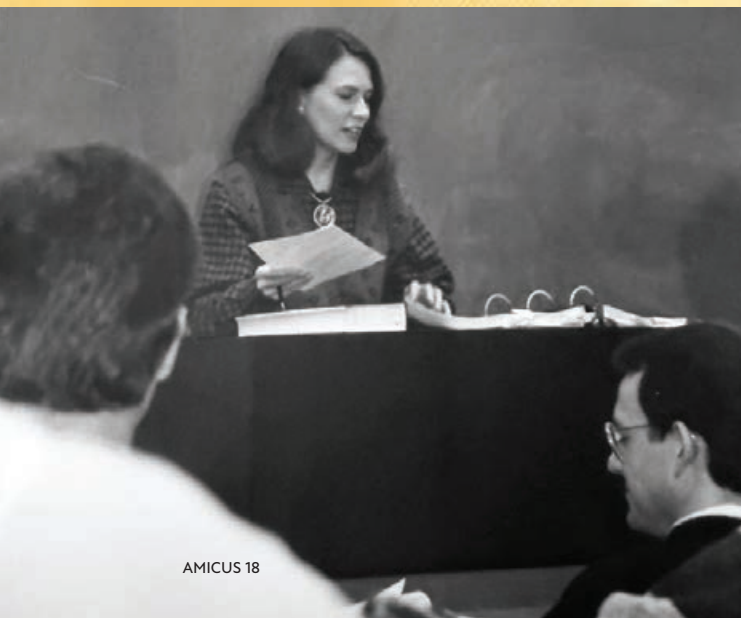


In 1975, MC acquired the Jackson School of Law, a small night school with limited resources but unlimited potential. The purchase included a 45-year history of producing respected attorneys and a small student body now deemed the first students at Mississippi College School of Law.

**WHAT THE PURCHASE
DID NOT INCLUDE WAS
A BUILDING. MC LAW
WAS ORIGINALLY
“HEADQUARTERED” ON THE
SECOND FLOOR OF THE SPEED
LIBRARY ON THE MC MAIN
CAMPUS IN CLINTON.**

CLASSES WERE HELD in buildings scattered around the campus. A single room served as the law school’s student center/waiting room/reading room, and the original law library occupied a mere three shelves.

Over the next five decades, MC Law would establish nationally recognized advocacy programs, launch clinics and law centers serving Mississippians and communities statewide, move from borrowed rooms to a thriving downtown campus, recruit distinguished faculty, and produce generations of respected attorneys, judges, and leaders whose accomplishments have brought distinction to their *alma mater* and made MC Law what it is today.





Foundation for a Legacy The Jackson School of Law (1930-1975)

In 1930, the Jackson School of Law (JSOL) was founded as an independent night school. Over the next four decades, classes moved from the campus of Millsaps College to Belhaven College to a former residence on North President Street. Despite modest resources, the school soon earned a reputation for producing talented, capable attorneys. By the early 1970s, JSOL alumni were leaders in Mississippi's legal community and had an active alumni association.

The MC Era Begins (1975-1985)

In 1975, Mississippi College purchased the Jackson School of Law.



PROFESSOR MARY LIBBY PAYNE was named dean of the new Mississippi College School of Law. Payne's first office suite in the main campus library consisted of two desks, two phones that never stopped ringing, and an empty filing cabinet. Later, Dean Payne added a table she christened "the

admissions office." Classes were held in buildings and rooms on the Clinton campus never intended to host law classes, from chemistry labs to rooms in the chapel vibrating from organ practice.

THE MISSISSIPPI TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION donated \$500 to create the law school's first scholarship. Ronnie Dortch of Kentucky became the first student admitted under the MC banner. Between transfer students from JSOL and new students from Mississippi and around the country, the fledgling law school welcomed a first student body of 514 aspiring attorneys. JSOL alumni were also welcomed to the MC community. Years later, JSOL alumnus Billy Keyes '71 recalled, "MC Law accepted all of us JSOL graduates as family."

IN 1976, MC LAW HELD its first graduation ceremony, presenting Mississippi College juris doctor degrees to students who began at JSOL. That same year, MC Law was represented for the first time at the

Mississippi Bar Convention. In the late 1970s, MC Law published the first edition of the student newspaper, *The Legal Eye*, and established the *Law Review* program, moot court board, and the Honor Council.

THE GROWING LAW SCHOOL found the dedicated space it needed when United Gas Pipeline gifted MC Law a building at 151 East Griffith Street in downtown Jackson, a strategic location in the heart of Mississippi's legal community. As then-Mississippi Governor Cliff Finch said, "This is more than just a new building. I would have paid for that kind of experience when I was in law school." In 1981, the first classes were held on the Griffith Street campus (now James H. Meredith Drive).

ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT — "MC Law was originally housed on the second floor of the Speed Library on the MC main campus. One room served as the student center – without any possibility of food and/or coffee – and a general gathering place for creating and spreading rumors. It was a red-letter day when the law school was given a copy machine! Today's students might feel sorry for [students] who suffered through law school in cramped spaces with few amenities, until I add that those class members paid \$58 per semester. Our amenities today are wonderful by comparison, but there's a reason they call it 'the good old days.'" — Judge Mary Libby Payne, the first dean of MC Law

IN 1984, MC LAW introduced its first chairs of law, the Owen Cooper Chair of Law and the J. Will Young Chair of Law.

MC LAW CELEBRATED a critical milestone in 1985, receiving full accreditation by the American Bar Association.



"As a student in 1975, I chose MC Law because I was drawn to the law school's Christian commitment and culture of community involvement. Over the past 50 years, that commitment and that culture have only grown. Supporting and strengthening our students and young attorneys supports and strengthens our legal community, which supports and strengthens our greater community...MC Law is a place where everyone is welcomed, where relationships matter and relationships last."

Dean Emerita Patricia Bennett '79



Building Momentum (1985–2000)

With accreditation secured, MC Law entered a period of expanding influence and growing recognition.

The National Jurist ranked MC Law #12 on its list of Top Law Schools for Women.

PATRICIA BENNETT '79 became the first alumna and the first African American welcomed to the fulltime faculty. Bennett would go on to become the law school's ninth dean.

THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT was on MC Law when U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia visited the law school, addressing a crowd of 700 at the Christian Legal Society's annual prayer breakfast.

MC LAW CONTINUED to participate in the MC main campus graduation ceremony, but also begins holding its own hooding ceremony for law school graduates.

WITH ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY approaching, the law school turned an eye toward improving its physical plant.

MOO COURT IN SESSION

Sid Moller served as dean of MC Law from 1998 to 2001, following years as a professor. Some of Moller's most memorable – and amusing – moments at MC Law grew from his friendship with Joe Kees, who was responsible for the physical plant. Moller and Kees jointly leased a plot of land on which they raised cattle. Occasionally, the law school business and the cattle business overlapped.

“One morning I was sitting in Joe's pickup outside the entrance to the law school with a calf on my lap, his head sticking out the open window. I will never forget the look on the face of our dean, retired general and former head of the Army JAG Corps, Al Harvey, when he walked up to the truck and asked me just what I thought I was doing. I would not recommend re-creating such an incident to a young faculty member seeking tenure.”



“It was gratifying to have our faculty members receive national recognition for their scholarly work, to witness our graduates distinguishing themselves in increasing numbers, and to see prestigious law firms in the region recruit at our school. And I never tired of seeing students begin their first semester as tentative, sometimes anxious young men and women, and over the course of three years, grow into confident, well-trained lawyers.” — Former MC Law Dean Sid Moller



Reaching New Heights (2000–2015)

MC Law expanded its campus and its programming.

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP of Dean Jim Rosenblatt, MC Law launched a \$6 million capital campaign to expand and enhance the campus, and soon broke ground for new facilities, including an addition to the law library, a new classroom building, and a student center.

THE LAW SCHOOL established its respected Certificate in Civil Law program to prepare students for practice in Louisiana. Law Centers focused on family, business, public interest, international, and health law expanded educational opportunities.

LEGAL CLINICS, including the Family and Children's Law Center and the Mission First Legal Aid Clinic, were established to provide critical assistance to Mississippians in need while also giving students valuable real-world experience. Study abroad programs took students and faculty to Germany, France, Korea, Cuba, and Mexico.

MC LAW'S MOOT COURT PROGRAM emerged as one of the best in the country, earning a #4 national ranking in 2011 and proving that MC Law students could compete successfully against students from the nation's top law schools.

THE MC LAW LIBRARY developed the Judicial Database Project, the Legislative History Project, and the Mississippi Legal Resource Project, making important legal information accessible to the general public.

JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA made a second appearance, addressing attendees at an MC Law luncheon at First Baptist Church. The alumni office coordinated the first "swearing in" trip to the U.S. Supreme Court for MC Law graduates.

WITH ITS STUDENT BODY GROWING, MC Law began holding its own graduation ceremony at First Baptist Church Jackson, independent of the MC main campus commencement. Keynote speakers included Condoleezza Rice, National Security Advisor to President George W. Bush and future U.S. Secretary of State, and Major General William Suter, retired clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW named MC Law one of the best law schools in the country, calling the law school "one of the best kept secrets in the South."

LEGAL LEADERS Deans of MC Law

Mary Libby
Payne
1975–1978

E.A. "Beby"
Turnage
1978–1981

Alton H.
Harvey, Jr.
1981–1991

J. Richard Hurt
1991–1998

Sid Moller
1998–2001

J. Larry Lee
2001–2003

James "Jim"
Rosenblatt
2003–2014

Wendy B. Scott
2014–2016

Patricia Bennett
2016–2022

John Anderson
2022 – Present



"Over my 23 years at MC Law, I've celebrated many milestones. Special memories include the construction of our downtown campus, winning moot court national championships, hiring superb faculty and staff, and seeing MC Law graduates become bar presidents, political leaders, and judges. However, I take my greatest pride in the lives and accomplishments of every law student who entered the doors of MC Law and whom I had the honor of knowing during my years." — Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt



Soaring Forward (2016–2026)

Over the past decade, MC Law has continued to earn regional and national acclaim.

THE MOOT COURT PROGRAM has established a solid tradition of competitive excellence, including successfully competing virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE VETERANS LEGAL AID CLINIC has become one of the school's most distinctive experiential learning programs, providing free legal assistance to veterans and their families. Since 2014, when tracking software was introduced, the Family and Children's Law Center's Child Advocacy Clinic has handled some 800 adoptions.

IN 2023, MC LAW launched the All Rise capital campaign, which is providing the funds needed to transform the law school's buildings into a



dynamic downtown campus designed around the needs of modern law students, faculty, and the legal community.

MC LAW PARTNERED with Mississippi State University, Mississippi University for Women, the University of Southern Mississippi, and William Carey College to launch 3+3 programs that allow students to earn a bachelor's degree and a law degree in six years rather than seven.

THE LAW SCHOOL LEADS THE NATION in the number of students selected for the elite U.S. Army JAG Corps, and is recognized among the Top 10 graduate schools in the nation for serving military-connected students. *U.S. News & World Report* ranks MC Law among the top law schools in the country in placement of graduates in federal clerkships. *preLaw* magazine ranks MC Law a top school for family law, health law, and career



"As we look back over the past 50 years, we can see that MC Law has been on a steady, upward trajectory that hasn't stopped rising since that first day in 1975. It's inspiring to look back at those humble beginnings and celebrate how far we've come. And it's even more exciting to look ahead and know that we're positioned not only to meet the challenges of tomorrow's legal profession, but also to play a role in shaping it." — Dean John Anderson



placement, and it also ranks the law school the #8 Most Devout Law School in America.

LAUNCHED IN 2025, the new Sports, Entertainment, and Arts Law Center will prepare graduates to represent the musicians, artists, actors, writers, and others who influence American culture.

MC LAW IS ONE OF THE FIRST law schools in the United States to require artificial intelligence education, positioning the school as an early leader in legal education's response to AI. The new Center for AI Policy and Technology Leadership (CAPTL) is positioned to become a regional hub for education and government policy on the use of AI.

BEHIND EVERY MILESTONE

Ten deans and generations of professors helped guide the school through five decades of growth, but they were far from alone. Librarians helped students find answers. Secretaries offered encouragement. Financial aid officers helped make law school possible. Placement professionals launched careers. Security officers watched over the campus. Physical plant workers kept the lights on and the doors open.

The majority of these individuals never stood at a podium or had their names engraved on a building, yet their impact is seen in every class of graduates and every success story that followed.



MC LAW
50
1975 - 2025

Alumni and friends joined students, faculty, and staff on April 1st, 2026 for a 50th birthday party and fish fry.

FRASCOGNA

LEGAL + BUSINESS + CREATIVE

The LAWYERS BEHIND *the* LIMELIGHT

A BACKSTAGE PASS TO FRASCOGNA LAW GROUP

*WHEN VISITORS STEP THROUGH
THE FRASCOGNA LAW GROUP DOORS,
THE FIRST THING THEY NOTICE IS
THAT THESE LAW OFFICES LOOK
NOTHING LIKE LAW OFFICES.*

A jukebox in the lobby sets the tone with Jerry Lee Lewis' "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On," followed by Elvis's "Don't Be Cruel." Framed gold records, movie and TV series posters, and floor-to-ceiling murals of singers and blues musicians cover the walls.

Books of every genre spill from the shelves, punctuated by the occasional piece of sports memorabilia. Every hallway, office, and conference room is a mini-museum of pop culture. The tour concludes in a fully equipped production studio, the perfect venue in which to record a podcast, film a music video, or stage a photo shoot.

It feels more like Los Angeles, New York, or Nashville than Jackson, Mississippi. Yet, artists, record labels, producers, filmmakers, authors, and entrepreneurs from around the world find their way here, drawn by the Mississippi law firm that built a global entertainment practice by embracing its Southern roots and assembling a team of expert attorneys as creative as their clientele.





Right: All of the partners with Frascogna Law Firm are MC Law alumni. From left: Alexis Rayford '20, Mike Frascogna III '05, Marty Frascogna '05, '09, Shawnassey Brooks '99, X.M. "Mike" Frascogna '72, Founder

“TO BE A TRUE ENTERTAINMENT ATTORNEY, IT’S NOT ENOUGH TO KNOW CONTRACT LAW OR HOW TO NEGOTIATE A DEAL. YOU HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO RECORD A SONG, WRITE A BOOK, PRODUCE A FILM, AND BUILD AN AUDIENCE.”

X.M. “Mike” Frascogna



F

rascogna Law Group (FLG) is the legal and business team working behind the scenes when the cameras roll, the albums drop, the books hit the shelves, and the deals get done.

FLG represents musicians, authors, content creators, entrepreneurs, and brands with audiences worldwide. Collectively, the firm's clients have earned 51 Grammy Awards, secured 18 platinum albums, and sold more than 750 million records. FLG has worked on projects involving industry giants like Netflix, CMT, Atlantic Records, Universal Studios, and other entertainment heavyweights.

FLG attorneys do more than handle the legal work. They help clients navigate the variables that transform raw creative talent into sustainable careers.

“THE ENVIRONMENT AT FLG FOSTERS THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT. THE ATTITUDE HERE IS THAT IF IT HELPS YOUR CLIENT, GO FOR IT.” — Alexis Rayford '20

“We create demand for our clients as artists, which allows us to negotiate more lucrative contracts on their behalf,” FLG founder X.M. “Mike” Frascogna '72 says. “In order to do that, our attorneys have to understand the business inside and out. To be a *true* entertainment attorney, it's not enough to know contract law or how to negotiate a deal. You

have to know how to record a song, write a book, produce a film, and build an audience.”

FLG watches over its clients' careers from both a legal *and* a strategic standpoint, helping them become bigger than when they first walked through the FLG doors.

“We look at the totality of the deal. What does the client need to be successful?” FLG Partner Mike Frascogna III '05 says. “If there's an opportunity we need to meet in order for our client to be successful, we'll figure out a way to do it, or in some cases, create it.”

That pursuit of the “totality of the deal” led FLG attorneys to form separate spin-off companies, including Frasco Films, a production studio that generates documentaries, music videos, and promotional trailers, and Emerald Tiger Artist Management, a talent development and booking firm. Realizing that most of their clients require branding, public relations, a digital presence, and high-impact promotional pieces, FLG attorneys invested personally to hire the team and build the facilities needed for turnkey service.

“The environment at FLG fosters the entrepreneurial spirit,” says FLG's newest partner, Alexis Rayford '20. “The attitude here is that if it helps your client, go for it.”

Mike III takes the description of entrepreneurial spirit a step further.

“If you took our law firm and dropped us in a remote, harsh location, naked with nothing but a buck knife, not only would we survive, we would also build an entire civilization and thrive there.”

“When I was teaching as an adjunct at MC Law, the first question I asked my students was, ‘If you could practice entertainment law anywhere, where would you go?’

They would usually answer Los Angeles, New York, Nashville, or Austin.

And I would tell them,

‘THE RIGHT ANSWER IS ANYWHERE IN MISSISSIPPI.’

Mississippi is the best place to practice entertainment law. Don’t you want to go where all the talent is?”

X.M. “Mike” Frascogna,
FLG Founder



SETTING A PRECEDENT IN MISSISSIPPI

An accomplished civil trial lawyer, Mike Frascogna brings deep legal experience across multiple industries, but is best known for founding Mississippi's only sports and entertainment law firm.

As an accounting major at Mississippi State University in the late 1960s, Frascogna paid his way through college by booking bands for fraternity parties and campus events under the business name Frasco Entertainment. By the time he enrolled in the Jackson School of Law (now MC Law), Frasco Entertainment was one of the largest booking agencies in the South.

"When I graduated from law school, everyone just assumed I was an entertainment attorney," Frascogna says.

Over the past 50 years, Frascogna has lived into that reputation, building an impressive team of attorneys who share his entrepreneurial spirit, including his sons, FLG partners Mike Frascogna III '05 and Marty Frascogna '09.

FLG attorneys bring experience not only as lawyers, but also as small business owners and as managers for music tours and record labels, social media stars, video gamers, and college athletes navigating the new frontier of NIL. They've authored multiple books and produced documentaries on Mississippi music and sports, and FLG has staged or sponsored major music and arts events in Mississippi and beyond.

"None of us are paper-pushing attorneys," says FLG attorney Kamel King '06. "Creatives, by and large, don't trust the 'suits.' We've earned the trust and respect of the creative community because we've all been *part* of the creative community. The grassroots experience that comes from having done it ourselves makes us sharper than attorneys who have never actually *lived* the industry."

FRASCOGNA LAW GROUP IS MISSISSIPPI'S TALENT REFINERY.



FLG attorneys are often asked, "Why base an international entertainment practice in Mississippi?"

FLG's response is to point to the state's talent.

"Mississippi is rich with talent across all entertainment genres. Literary, motion picture, acting, singing, athletes," King says. "That talent is like oil here, right under the topsoil. The problem has been that Mississippi ships our talent out crude. "Then other places refine it, brand it, and decide how it's marketed and what it should be worth. Mississippi doesn't get the benefit of the reputation or

Kamel King '06,
FLG attorney

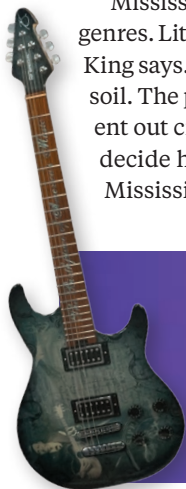


the dollars. Frascogna Law Group, even though we're a national and international firm, is pro-Mississippi. We invest in our artists. FLG is Mississippi's talent refinery."

FLG attorneys bring an understanding of Southern culture that can't be learned in law school. They speak the same language, share the same backgrounds, and come from the same roots as many of the Southern artists they represent.

"I do a lot of work with attorneys in California and New York. I have a great deal of respect for them and I like them, but there are some marked differences in the way they approach things," FLG Managing Partner Shawnassey Brooks '99 says. "When you have a client who is an entertainer and suddenly they're thrown into the business side at a high level, it can be hard for them. There's a connection we have in the South that you don't find in other places. When you've got a budding musician or a new author, I think they crave that connection."

"We're from the same soil as our Mississippi artists," King says. "That brings a different level of accountability. Where another agency may see these artists as dollar signs, we see them as friends and family."



WHEN ASKED WHAT HE'D LIKE HIS LEGACY TO BE, MIKE FRASCOGNA PONDERES THE QUESTION FOR A MOMENT, THEN REPLIES, "I HOPE PEOPLE WILL SAY, 'MIKE FRASCOGNA WAS PRO-MISSISSIPPI. WHETHER IT WAS ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, ATHLETES, OR ENTREPRENEURS, HE WAS ALWAYS PRO-MISSISSIPPI.'"

Shawnassey Brooks '99,
FLG Managing Partner,
and Mike Frascogna III
'05, FLG Partner



AN MC LAW TRADITION

Every partner and the majority of the attorneys at Frascogna Law Group are graduates of MC Law.

"MC Law was a very collaborative environment, and that's the kind of law firm we have," Shawnassey Brooks says. "That collaborative, community spirit takes away some of the pressure that causes attorneys to burn out. I've known people who've worked at other firms and compared their careers to being on an exhausting treadmill. We don't have that environment here, and I believe that's directly attributable to our common background at MC Law."

Mike Frascogna taught negotiation and sports and entertainment law as an adjunct professor for 41 years before passing the torch to Kamel King. The firm is heavily involved in the law school's new Sports, Entertainment, and Art Law Center. Mike Frascogna is also a supporter of the MC Law capital campaign.

"Ancient wisdom teaches, 'If you add a little to a little, and then do it again, soon that little shall be much' (Hesiod). MC Law's thousands of alumni are in a position to accelerate the growth and national reputation of the law school by helping provide resources for student scholarships, the research and teaching efforts of faculty, and renovations of facilities," Frascogna says. "If all alumni do 'a little,' we will be shocked at what MC Law will become over the next 50 years."





Alexis Rayford '20,
FLG Partner, and
Marty Frascogna '05,
'09, FLG Partner



One of those artists is GRAMMY Award-winning blues musician Dexter Allen, who is represented by both Frascogna Law Group and Emerald Tiger Artist Management.

“You have to have somebody fighting for you so the wolves and the vampires in this industry know now they can’t get one over on you,” Allen says. “The asset to the firm being in Mississippi means they’re right here. I ain’t got to jump on a plane to go to New York or Chicago. If I have an issue, I can drive down the street and around the corner.”

Musician and singer Chad Wesley is happy to have found a firm that shares his pro-Mississippi attitude.

“I grew up my entire life in Mississippi and I love it here,” Wesley says. “Representation in your backyard? Can’t beat that. I was told as a musician, ‘Go to Atlanta. Go to Nashville. Go to LA.’ But I want to set a precedent for a younger generation that you do not have to leave Mississippi. My life is here and I’m proud of it.”

MISSISSIPPI ADDRESS, GLOBAL REACH

Don’t let their Mississippi roots fool you; FLG attorneys can go toe-to-toe with any law firm in the world.

“We love it when people ask, ‘Where are you guys from?’ King says. “When we say, ‘Mississippi,’ a lot of times we see a smirk in response and know they’re thinking, ‘Mississippi? Already got them.’ Now, we have an advantage because you really don’t know who you’re dealing with. That underdog misperception is one of the biggest tools we have when we go to work for our clients.”

To quote the Frascogna Law Group website:

“We live and work in the South. That means we know how to brawl and how to be polite while we’re doing it.”

Its Mississippi address hasn’t stopped the entertainment world from knocking on FLG’s doors. The firm represents clients from around the globe and has earned an international reputation for its expertise in the industry.

“THE FRASCOGNAS HELPED ME GO FROM A ONE-TRICK PONY AS AN EDITORIAL CARTOONIST TO A CARTOONIST, AUTHOR, AND SPEAKER, AND HELPED PREPARE ME FOR THE POSITION I HAVE NOW.

They walked me through the process of publishing my first book, then advised me on how to do other things to grow my creative career. The legal side of the creative business is very important, but there’s also a degree of handholding in this business. You need people who know the business and who encourage you and help you find the courage to take that next step. The Frascognas are fantastic at that.”

Marshall Ramsey, Author, Illustrator, Cartoonist, Speaker, and Mississippi Media Lab Director of Civic Engagement and Assistant Professor of Practice at the University of Mississippi

UNDER ONE ROOF

Several attorneys at FLG have formed independent companies to serve their clients and to support the firm's creative needs.

- **Frasco Films**, a production company producing original documentary films
- **Emerald Tiger Artist Management**, a musical artist development and booking company formed in 2025 and led by FLG attorney and Managing Director Kamel King
- **Republic Books**, a publishing company handling works by FLG clients and attorneys
- **Paraclete Mississippi**, an emerging venture developing specialized AI solutions for businesses and led by FLG Director of Innovation and Paraclete President Shane Blanton

Right: Mike Frascogna's books on the practice of law have been translated into Japanese and Chinese and serve as trusted resources for attorneys around the world.

While still a student at MC Law, Marty Frascogna '05, '09, started a music blog called "Music Globalization," sharing how what he'd learned that day in contracts or copyright classes might apply to independent musicians. *Billboard* magazine began reposting and publishing his work.

"By the time I graduated from law school, I had somehow become 'that guy who does international music law,'" Marty says. "That wasn't really even a *thing*. But there was no one else who had planted a flag in that space, so I said, 'Sure. Let's say it's me. I'm that guy.'"

Today, Marty lectures throughout the United States and Europe on international music law and serves as an adjunct professor at the prestigious Berklee College of Music's campus in Valencia, Spain. Marty's story reflects a recurring theme at FLG: When the firm sees an opportunity, it doesn't hesitate to pursue it.

Mike Frascogna and late MC Law Professor Lee Hetherington co-authored the seminal music industry book, *This Business of Artist Management*, currently in its fourth edition, and its companion Japanese edition. Frascogna and Hetherington also teamed to co-author *Negotiation Strategy for Lawyers*, as well as *The Lawyer's Guide to Negotiation*, which was published by ABA Publishing as a resource for attorneys nationwide, and its companion Chinese edition. As a voting member of the Recording Academy, Frascogna casts a vote in choosing GRAMMY winners.



But while Frascogna's reputation for entertainment law may grab the spotlight, his credentials aren't limited to show business. Over his five-decade career, Frascogna has built an international litigation and alternative dispute resolution practice that has taken him before courts and tribunals around the world. His work has included proceedings in The Hague, the United Kingdom, the Bahamas, Taiwan, and Mexico. Frascogna's recent work includes service on the American Arbitration Association's Olympic Dispute Resolution Committee and its Master Mediator Panel.

Frascogna's track record is a reminder that behind the gold records and celebrity clients stands a firm built on serious legal credentials.



"WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR LUXEMBOURG?"

Marty Frascogna vividly recalls his first negotiation with a major record label, a milestone that had him working day and night to prepare.

The label's attorney, a graduate of Harvard and Yale, was with a large law firm in Los Angeles. Three minutes prior to what Marty felt was the most important call of his legal career, he was walking down the hall to the conference room, carrying a contract that "weighed four pounds when I got it and 18 pounds after all my redlining," when his father, Mike, stopped him.

"He asked me what my plan was, and when I showed him my folder of red lines, he *laughed*," Marty says. "So, I asked for his advice, and he said, 'Ask the other attorney where he's from, and don't let him escape from the question. Then ask him what the plan is for the Benelux countries.' I'm highly confused by this advice. I'm also sweating, because I'm scared to death.

"So, I get on the call and the other attorney is posturing, talking about his large firm and his time at Harvard and Yale. I asked him where he was from, and he kept repeating his credentials. So, I asked him again, and he finally said, 'Dallas.' So, I asked him some specific questions about Dallas. And finally, this guy just sounded defeated, and named a teeny little town in Texas two hours from Dallas."

The Benelux countries – Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg – also came in handy; when the label's counsel began talking about global rights, Marty asked, "Why would I give you rights to other territories, if you haven't even broken down what your plan is? I mean, honestly, can you tell me what the plan is for each specific Benelux country?"

"It just took down all of his armor," Marty says. "And I felt a shift. It was the realization, 'You're not going to beat me down just because you're in LA and you went to an Ivy League law school and I'm at a small firm in Mississippi and I didn't go to a big law school.' I realized this business wasn't as big and scary as I'd made it out to be. It's just human-to-human contact. You'll have way more success if you're genuine than if you try to be somebody you're not because you think that's what they're looking for in the room. People gravitate toward authenticity 100% of the time."

BEYOND THE FINE PRINT

Projects arrive at Frascogna Law Group in all kinds of forms. Sometimes it's a musician with a song. Other times it's an athlete with a brand. Sometimes it's an entrepreneur with a concept scribbled on a notepad.

In fact, FLG client relationships don't always begin with a legal issue. They begin with someone saying, "I've got an idea."

"The first step is identifying an opportunity. What idea do I have that I can use to develop intellectual property?" Mike III says. "The second step is creating that intellectual property – say, a book, a film, or a podcast. Step three is to *leverage* that intellectual property, get it out into the marketplace where it can generate income or recognition for you in your field. A lot of times the legal step – protecting it with a trademark or copyright or writing a contract – comes last."

"I tell clients, 'Just bring us a seed,'" Rayford says. "Allow us to plant it and grow it. We've built long-term relationships by encouraging clients to pick up the phone and say, 'Hey, Lex, I've got an idea,' and then we help flesh that idea out. Sometimes we say, 'You're thinking about it like this, but we see it in a much bigger scope. Let's help you build it out to something bigger.'"

"ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS I'VE HAD TO LEARN AS AN ENTERTAINMENT LAWYER IS PATIENCE. The thing about artists is, the more talented they are, the more right-brained they are. I'm very much a logical person, and sometimes I'm over here thinking, 'How do you not see this?' I keep reminding myself that if this highly creative person were a left-brained business person, they wouldn't need me." — Shawnassey Brooks '99, FLG Managing Partner

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

For a firm whose clients live in the spotlight, discretion is one of FLG's most valuable traits.

"I'm not really impressed by celebrities," Marty Frascogna says. "I don't have to constantly look down at my phone and announce, 'Oh, look, So-and-So's calling me!' and I don't post about my clients on socials. I'm just working in the shadows."

"That said, it is funny to see my kids mildly flex from time to time," Marty continues. "They never ask me about my job, but they'll overhear me talking about working with an artist, and the next time they have a friend in the car with us, they'll say, 'Hey, Dad, are you still working on that project with So-and-So?'"

Of course, working behind the scenes *does* have its exciting moments. FLG attorneys have attended the GRAMMY and Dove Awards ceremonies, ridden on tour buses, dined

with celebrities, negotiated with major record labels, and fielded endless requests for backstage passes. The practice also comes with its share of idiosyncrasies.

"So. Many. Quirks," Brooks says with a wry smile. "One of the most important things I've had to learn as an entertainment lawyer is patience. The thing about artists is, the more talented they are, the more right-brained they are. I'm very much a logical person, and sometimes I'm over here thinking, 'How do you not see this?' I keep reminding myself that if this highly creative person were a left-brained business person, they wouldn't need me."

"And honestly, there's just something about having a celebrity in the mix that makes things different," Brooks continues. "Perfect example, we had a multiplatinum group that was being sued by a former bandmate. We get into depositions, and the attorney on the other side goes all fanboy all over our group. *He's suing them*, but he's also telling them how much he loves their music. And we're there having to remind him, 'You're suing these guys. You are not their friend.'"

"You are also *constantly* trying to talk people out of making bad deals," Brooks says. "They're so anxious to get their shot at being a celebrity, so anxious for the big record deal, and you're trying to hold them back, going, 'No, no, *no*, you don't want to do this.' I can't tell you how many people I've had come to me after the fact and say, 'I signed this contract, and now I regret it.'"

While the public sees the red carpets, awards shows, sold-out venues, and streaming success stories, FLG sees the contracts, disputes, negotiations, and difficult decisions that happen behind the curtain. Brooks' assessment of that work is, "I love it," but she does confess to one downside.

"I can no longer listen to the radio in the car and the TV is never on in my house. That's what 20-plus years of entertainment law has done for me – I can't hear music without wondering what the licensing deal for it was, and I can't see an image without wondering who holds the copyright."

WHERE FAITH AND CHARACTER TAKE CENTER STAGE

The entertainment industry brings glamour, wealth, and fame, but the industry also has a well-publicized dark side. Power, money, and ambition have a way of testing people, often with unfortunate results. The FLG team feels a responsibility to be not only effective attorneys, but also a bright light in the industry.

"I think a major difference between Frascogna Law Group and many other firms in the country is that we have real Biblical values," King says. "More important than our skill as attorneys, our creativity, our diversity, and even the visionary leadership of Mr. Frascogna, is that we all have a foundation in God. It keeps us grounded to know that we take our direction from above."

That culture of faith and integrity begins with the example set by its founder. When asked what they've learned from Mike Frascogna, few of the attorneys mention points of law. Instead, they describe opportunity, mentorship, and trust.

Shane Blanton '22, FLG director of innovation, was recently faced with a critical business decision.



Shane Blanton '22,
FLG director of
innovation

"I asked Mr. Mike, 'What do I do?'" Blanton says. "He looked at my white board covered in ideas, and he said, 'I have faith you'll figure it out, Shane.' And he walked out. I *really* was hoping for an answer. But then, I thought, 'Okay. If *he* believes in me, then so do I.'"

Even more than its legal acumen and its celebrity client list, it's moments like those that define Frascogna Law Group. King summed it up in a text he sent to Mike Frascogna following a late-night Bible study.

Hey, sir. Sorry it's late. I'm just compelled to tell you thank you, to say thank you from all of us. You're so generous in sharing your light, opportunities, accolades, and reputation to uplift us all when you don't have to. You've earned the right to keep it all to yourself because of the hard work, dedication, and innovation you've had in your life, but you share with us unselfishly. For that, I'll always honor you.

Mike Frascogna replied: *Individual glory always fades, while team glory always endures.*

"WHEN I SEE ONE OF OUR CLIENTS PERFORM, I KNOW THERE'S A GOD, because there's no way any person could possess such a talent without a higher being. I also believe that we're uniquely blessed in Mississippi, where He sprinkled a little bit more of that talent on us than on the rest of the world." — Kamel King, Attorney, Frascogna Law Group and Managing Director, Emerald Tiger Artist Management



THE KICK-OFF TO LAST CHANCE U

When the president of East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) came to Frascogna Law Group in search of advice to increase the school's dwindling enrollment, FLG took the football and ran with it.

The firm suggested writing a book on EMCC's legendary late football coach, Bob "Bull" "Cyclone" Sullivan. Mike, Mike III, and Marty Frascogna knew it was sound advice; the father and sons had previously co-authored two books on Mississippi football – *Gridiron Gold* and *Y'all vs. Us* – and knew there was a market there. When EMCC approached Sullivan's widow with the idea, she agreed – on the condition that the Frascognas write the book. Father and sons teamed up again to author *Bull Cyclone Sullivan and the Lions of Scooba, Mississippi*.

The book clicked with EMCC alumni, many of whom were inspired to begin supporting the school financially and returning to campus for EMCC's rough-and-tumble gridiron matchups. Following the success of the book, EMCC leaders and some of the former players interviewed for the book came back to FLG with an idea to turn the book into a documentary film – a documentary they wanted FLG to produce.

The book and documentary inspired an in-depth feature story on the EMCC football program for GQ magazine. The magazine article led to interest from Netflix. EMCC once again came to FLG, this time for help negotiating a deal with the streaming giant.

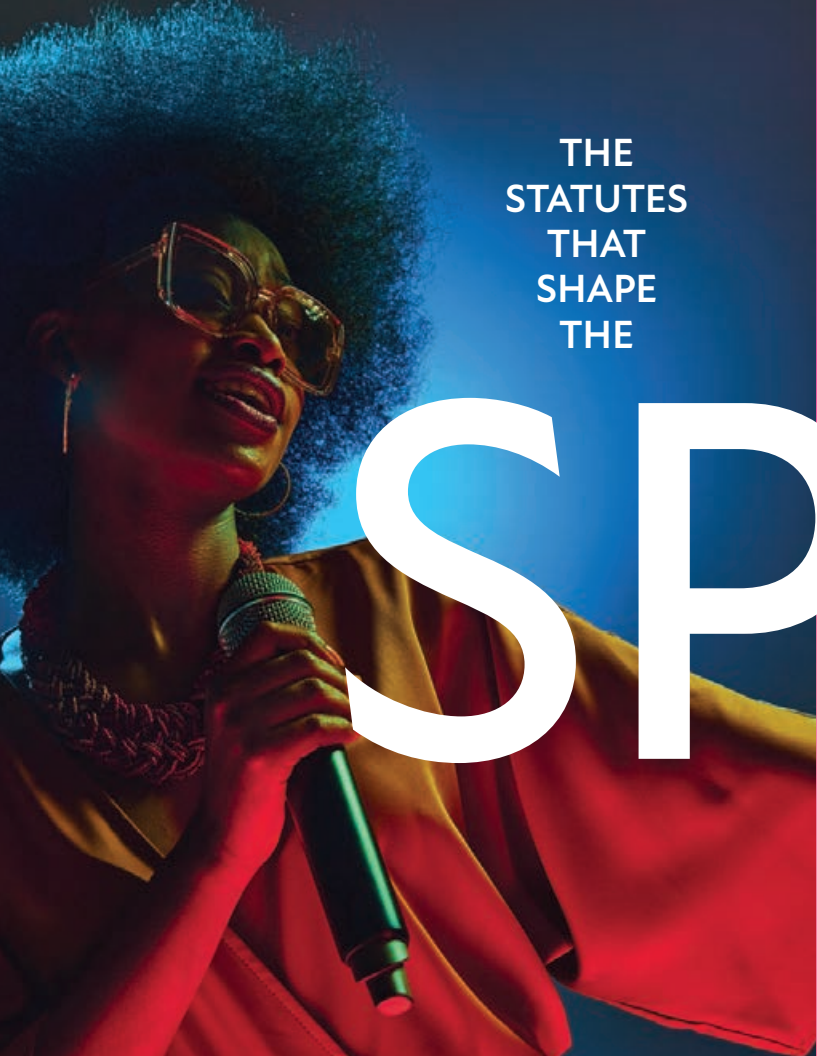
The result was *Last Chance U*.

The reality series premiered in 2016, transforming the small community college in map-dot Scooba, Mississippi, into an international sensation. The EMCC website exploded, admission inquiries increased, and football fans from around the world packed the stadium to watch the Lions play. *Last Chance U* went on to become one of Netflix's most highly rated reality shows.

For FLG, *Last Chance U* remains a textbook example of recognizing an opportunity and leveraging it into something big.

THE
STATUTES
THAT
SHAPE
THE

SPOT



LIGHT

MC LAW'S NEW SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND ARTS LAW CENTER

A LAW SCHOOL CLASSROOM MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE THE LOGICAL PLACE FOR AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF A CHART-TOPPING SONG, THE LATEST TREND IN ATHLETIC GEAR, OR THE NEXT SUMMER BLOCKBUSTER.

But with the launch of the MC Law Sports, Entertainment, and Arts Center (SEAL), those topics are part of the mission.

The SEAL Center is a space where sports, creativity, and legal strategy meet. Through SEAL, MC Law students learn the ins and outs of legal representation for athletes, musicians, filmmakers, authors, actors, social media stars, and other clients in creative careers that shape the culture. SEAL offers a certificate in sports, entertainment, and arts law, endorsing graduates' expertise in this exploding field.

Mississippi offers an especially meaningful backdrop for SEAL's work. The state has long been a wellspring of artistic and cultural influence, producing musicians, writers, performers, and athletes whose impact reaches far beyond state lines.

"SEAL highlights the richness of culture and the economic boost that sports, entertainment, and the arts bring to our communities, and prepares our students to play a part not just in supporting, but also in shaping those fields," says Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and SEAL Center Co-director Mary Largent Purvis '01.

FROM THE STAGE AND THE FIELD TO THE CLASSROOM

For Purvis and her SEAL Center co-director, Assistant Professor Stephanie Jackson '19, leading the center is an extension of their own passions.

Years prior to building a reputation as an attorney and scholar focused on patent and intellectual property law, Purvis took the stage as a ballet dancer. Her training with Ballet Mississippi gave Purvis a firsthand understanding of the discipline and imagination required to bring creative work to life. Her later work in intellectual property included copyright and trademark law, fields that play a crucial role in protecting artistic and creative works.

Stephanie Jackson's legal career didn't follow a predictable playbook. A former professional football player who competed in full-tackle women's football at the highest levels of the sport, Jackson took the field for multiple teams in the Women's Football Alliance and earned a spot on the Team USA roster. Off the field, Jackson worked with the Minnesota Vikings as an executive suite intern, where she learned the ins and outs of player contract negotiations, and worked as a scouting specialist for the New York Jets during a summer break from law school.

In addition to her full-time role at MC Law, Jackson is a partner in Code Sports Group, a New York-based sports management agency. Her background gives Jackson unique insight into the challenges athletes face in navigating contracts and endorsement deals, including the complex, still-evolving world of NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) in collegiate sports.

A RESOURCE FOR MISSISSIPPI — The SEAL Center offers CLEs, panel discussions, and a Backstage Pass Speaker Series. Future plans include educational symposiums on NIL to prepare young athletes and their families before the recruiters show up at their doors.



“I’LL HAVE STUDENTS SAY, ‘I USED TO BE A THEATER KID,’ OR A READER, OR A MUSICIAN. I TELL THEM, ‘YOU STILL ARE, AND THERE’S A PLACE FOR THAT HERE. CREATIVITY IS DEFINITELY A PART OF ADVOCACY.’”

Mary Largent Purvis ’01

“When I was interning with the Vikings, I saw them interviewing students from the big law schools, and I thought, ‘How do we get them to look at MC Law as a resource?’” Jackson says. “When Dean Anderson called me and said MC Law was starting a SEAL Center and they’d like me to be its co-director, I realized this was my vision. This was how I could help MC Law students get in those rooms and get those opportunities.”

COUNSEL BY THE CREATIVELY INCLINED

SEAL can help students rediscover parts of themselves they thought law school meant leaving behind.

“I think students sometimes struggle to find aspects of the law that they’re really passionate about,” Purvis says. “SEAL gives them an opportunity to connect the law to things they already love. I’ll have students say, ‘I used to be a theater kid,’ or a reader, or a musician. I tell them, ‘You still are, and there’s a place for that here. Creativity is definitely a part of advocacy.’ Former student athletes or sports fans are excited about opportunities to be a part of the team behind contracts, endorsements, and branding. That’s what excites me the most about SEAL – it sparks a passion in our students.”

That spark resonated with MC Law student Camden Schjott, a former child actor who attended Belmont University on a commercial voice scholarship. Schjott is a member of the SEAL Center’s Student Advisory Board.

“Music and entertainment have always been influential parts of my life. I’ve been a singer and actor for as long as I can remember,” Schjott says. “And because everyone has a favorite artist or athlete, this area of law touches all of us.”

“I’ve always been drawn to creative industries, and I noticed how often talented people were navigating contracts and business decisions without fully understanding

the legal implications,” says MC Law student Kristen Collins, who also serves on the SEAL Student Advisory Board. “I saw how easily artists could lose control of their work or limit their opportunities because they didn’t have legal guidance. Sports and entertainment law is a space where I can support people doing what they love, while also helping them build sustainable, protected careers. It isn’t just interesting to me intellectually, it feels purposeful.”

A BACKSTAGE PASS

SEAL courses are taught not only by MC Law faculty, but also by practicing professionals who share firsthand accounts of how deals are made, disputes unfold, and creative work is protected. In developing SEAL’s programming, MC Law collaborated with Jackson-based Frascogna Law Group (FLG), the state’s only sports and entertainment law firm. FLG’s founder, Mike Frascogna ’72, taught at MC Law for some 40 years as an adjunct; all of the firm’s partners and associates are MC Law graduates. FLG Associate Kamel King ’06 teaches an MC Law course in entertainment law.

“We want to train the next generation of sports and entertainment lawyers who’ll join us,” King says. “The best way we can do that is to be in on the ground level with those students, giving them real-life lessons.”

Attorneys from FLG are not only teaching in the classroom, they’re also giving MC Law students hands-on clinical experiences as interns and clerks. MC Law student Chloe Bell’s role as a clerk at FLG includes assisting with artist booking inquiries and contracts, providing promotional support for firm-sponsored events from book releases to festivals, and conceiving ideas for creative events.

“My work is very nontraditional,” Bell says. “One of the most exciting things I’ve had the opportunity to do at FLG



“I’D LIKE TO SEE MC LAW BECOME THE SCHOOL THAT PRODUCES THE TOP SPORTS AGENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT LAW PROFESSIONALS – THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE HIGHEST SKILLS, BUT WHO ALSO HAVE THE HIGHEST INTEGRITY.”

Stephanie Jackson ’19



Chloe Bell

has been developing a network of creatives and professionals within the industry. I’ve had the opportunity to meet GRAMMY Award winners and nominees, Recording Academy leaders, booking agents, and so many individuals who’ve made meaningful contributions to the entertainment industry.”

“Frascona Law Group is creating a pipeline,” says Alexis Rayford ’20, partner at FLG. “We very much care that the best legal talent stays here in Mississippi.”

MISSISSIPPI’S TALENT MAKES THE CASE

A law center focused on sports and entertainment law might seem like a better fit for Los Angeles, New York, or Nashville than Jackson, Mississippi. Purvis and Jackson would argue the opposite.

“Mississippi is rich with athletic talent and creative energy,” Purvis says. “We’ve produced cultural influence far beyond our borders, and that creative legacy continues to grow.”

Mississippi boasts more GRAMMY winners per capita than any other state, is one of the top three states per capita in producing pro football players, and claims literary geniuses and bestselling authors from William Faulkner and Eudora Welty to John Grisham and Angie Thomas.

“Where are New York and LA getting all that talent? Mississippi,” Jackson says. “When you drive into Mississippi, what does the sign say? ‘Welcome to the birthplace of America’s music.’ When I think of Elvis, it *still* ticks me off. He’s from Tupelo, but Memphis takes credit for him. B.B. King? He’s from Indianola. Kermit the Frog is from Leland. Snoop Dogg, the most popular rapper in the world, has deep roots here – both of his parents are from Mississippi. It doesn’t make sense to me that the rest of America is benefitting from Mississippi’s talents more than Mississippi is. I’m almost indignant about it. So why *wouldn’t* Mississippi have the most thriving entertainment and sports law community?”

Jackson has another reason for committing to the SEAL Center.

“These young Mississippi athletes have too many people coming here, making promises, and dropping off money to mom and dad. Then, if the player doesn’t work out, they leave him alone to deal with it. They don’t care about these kids. For me it’s about supporting Mississippi’s kids, Mississippi’s athletes, and Mississippi’s people. Sports thrives on relationships, and loyalty and trust are the currencies of Mississippi.

“Anything I do, I lead with Christ first,” Jackson continues. “Whether I’m talking to players or teaching at SEAL, I do everything with the thought that my Father is watching me. I’d like to see MC Law become the school that produces the top sports agents and entertainment law professionals – the people who have the highest skills, but who also have the highest integrity.”



ALL RISE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR MC LAW CONTINUES TO RAISE THE BAR.

MC Law is in the midst of a multimillion-dollar capital campaign to raise the funding needed to transform its downtown Jackson campus.



**WITH PHASES 1 AND 2
OF THE EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS
COMPLETE, MC LAW IS LOOKING
AHEAD TO THE NEXT PHASE OF
ENHANCEMENTS THAT WILL
CONTINUE TO RAISE THE BAR.**

The remaining renovations will unfold over the next three to four years, elevating every aspect of the campus and raising MC Law's physical facilities to the level of its programming.

Enhancements are designed with students in mind, but the campus also serves the greater Jackson community. The Mississippi Bar, local law firms, nonprofits, federal agencies, and downtown Jackson businesses are often welcomed to campus for meetings, CLEs, and events. The renovations have also created a comfortable space for veterans, families, and dozens of other Mississippians served by MC Law's *pro bono* legal clinics.

The All Rise campaign and the MC Law renovations are a part of **Rise to 200**, MC's larger bicentennial capital campaign. Rise to 200 will drive MC's rise to a Christian university of national distinction.

Phases 1 and 2 Completed Projects

- First-floor library
- Administrative offices
- Updated classrooms
- A well-appointed Student Center
- Family Law Center and conference rooms
- Collaborative social spaces and study rooms for students and faculty
- Back patio "Quad" and wellness lawn
- Campus-wide technology integration
- Murals and historic displays

"THE ALL RISE CAMPAIGN is about living out MC Law's mission as a faith-based, student-centered law school that's been producing leaders in our legal community for more than 50 years. Our enhanced campus will tell that story, and inspire future generations of students to build on the history, tradition, and mission of MC Law." — MC LAW DEAN JOHN ANDERSON





Classroom Corridor

MOTION TO CONTINUE

Progress to date is impressive, but the transformation has only begun.

PHASE 3 ENHANCEMENTS NOW UNDERWAY

- Second floor of classroom center
- Second floor of administration building
- Second-floor library
- Student lounge

PLANNED PHASE 4 ENHANCEMENTS

- Moot courtroom
- Faculty and Staff Offices
- Third-floor classrooms
- Third-floor library

“WITH EACH DOLLAR MC LAW SPENDS TO GROW, IMPROVE, AND INNOVATE, THE PRESTIGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LAW SCHOOL INCREASES SEVERAL TIMES OVER. FOR ALUMNI, GIVING BACK TO MC LAW INCREASES THE VALUE OF THE DIPLOMA HANGING ON YOUR OFFICE WALL.”

Chris Dunnells '14, Partner, Chartwell Law



Rare Books Room



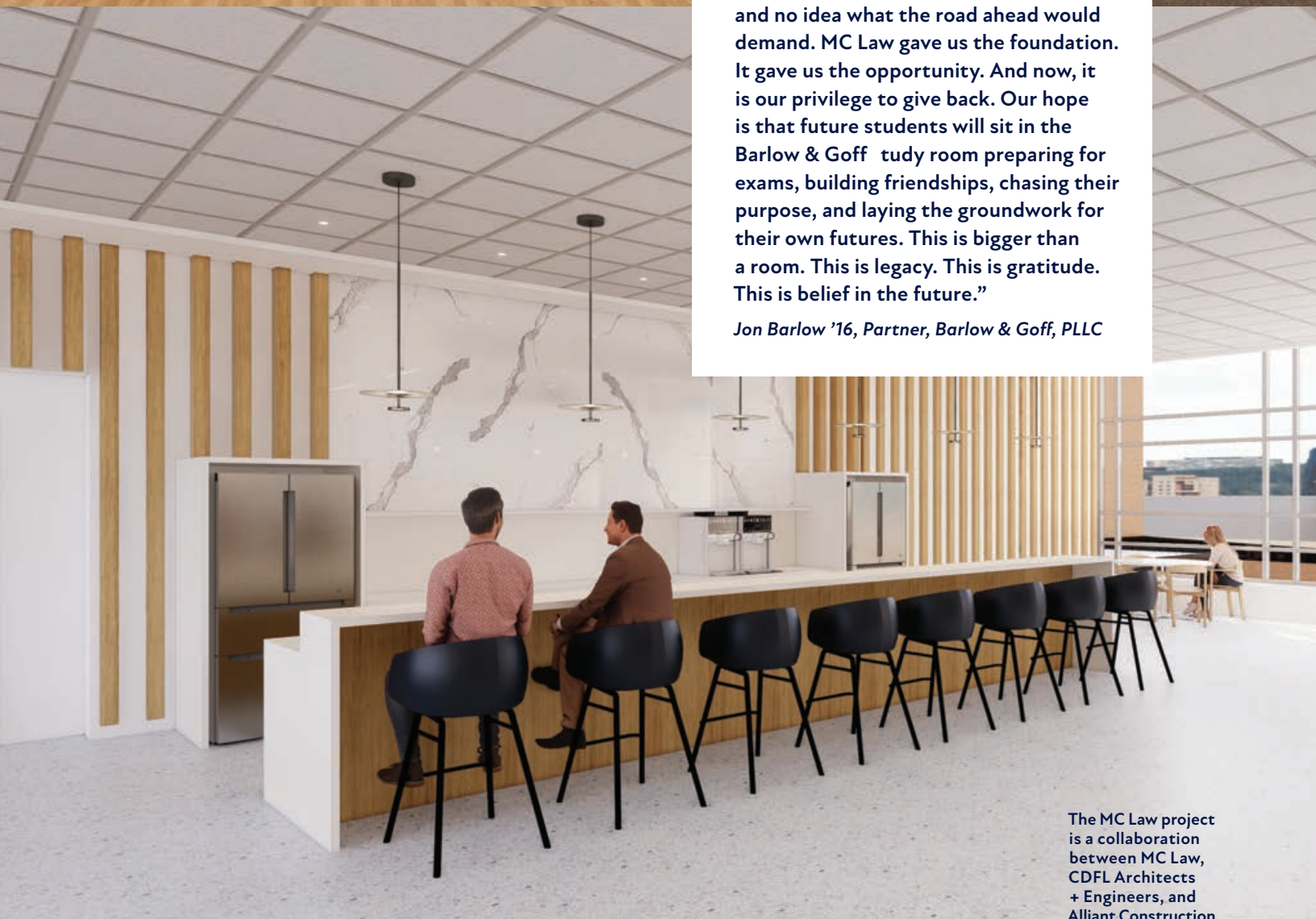
Second-Floor Library



Second-Floor Library Lounge

“WHEN MY PARTNER, Marshall Goff, and I met at MC Law in 2014, we were just two young men with big dreams and no idea what the road ahead would demand. MC Law gave us the foundation. It gave us the opportunity. And now, it is our privilege to give back. Our hope is that future students will sit in the Barlow & Goff study room preparing for exams, building friendships, chasing their purpose, and laying the groundwork for their own futures. This is bigger than a room. This is legacy. This is gratitude. This is belief in the future.”

Jon Barlow '16, Partner, Barlow & Goff, PLLC



Second-Floor Student Lounge

The MC Law project is a collaboration between MC Law, CDFL Architects + Engineers, and Alliant Construction.

HELP MC LAW CLOSE THE CASE

The specific timeline for future phases is dependent upon the generosity of campaign donors.

While MC Law began funding the renovations with cash on hand, the full vision for the transformed campus will only become a reality with the support of alumni, friends, and members of the legal community. Tax-deductible donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and every gift will be recognized.

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

MC Law offers many opportunities to name an area of the campus in honor of yourself, your firm, a friend or family member, a professor, or other honoree. Naming opportunities are available from \$1,000 to \$1 million-plus.

TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT:

LAUREN WELLS
lwells3@mc.edu

DEAN JOHN ANDERSON
jpanders@mc.edu



TO MAKE A GIFT
TO THE MC LAW
BUILDING FUND,
— VISIT —
LAW.MC.EDU
OR SCAN



“WE CHOOSE TO GIVE BACK TO MC LAW
because MC Law has been a true blessing
to our family, and we value its mission of
providing a superior legal education within
the context of a Christian institution.
We contribute so that future students
will have the opportunity to benefit from
MC Law in the same way we have.”

The Granville Tate Family

ALL IN ON



**IN THE FALL OF 2025, MC LAW LAUNCHED THE CENTER FOR AI POLICY
AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP (CAPTL), A REGIONAL HUB FOR LEGAL EDUCATION
AND GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**

***LAUNCHED WITH \$1.2 MILLION
IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FUNDING,
CAPTL IS MORE THAN AN
ACADEMIC CENTER. IT'S A SPACE
WHERE LEGAL INSIGHT, BUSINESS
STRATEGY, AND TECHNOLOGICAL
EDUCATION CONVERGE.***

A joint initiative between MC Law and the MC School of Business, CAPTL will serve law school and college students, professionals, policymakers, and industry leaders across Mississippi and beyond.

“With the establishment of CAPTL, MC Law is taking a leadership role in shaping how artificial intelligence will be taught, understood, and used,” says MC Law Dean John Anderson. “We’re ensuring Mississippi is at the national forefront of advancing ethically grounded AI education and policy. AI is reshaping industries and changing not only the legal profession, but our entire world. CAPTL steps directly into this moment.”

A CAPTL IDEA

CAPTL was founded through a \$723,000 Mississippi AI Talent Accelerator Program grant from the state of Mississippi and a private gift from longtime MC patrons John and Mary

Brock. The Brocks made a gift of \$1 million – \$500,000 to MC Law and \$500,000 to the MC School of Business – to establish endowed professorships in both schools.

“AI technologies are reshaping how organizations operate, compete, and create value. From automating routine processes to enabling advanced data-driven decision-making, AI is now embedded across functions like finance, marketing, operations, law, and strategy,” John Brock says. “Business School and MC Law graduates must be equipped to navigate the ethical, legal, and organizational implications of AI adoption. Issues like bias in algorithms, data privacy, intellectual property, and workforce displacement are no longer theoretical – they are immediate challenges facing companies today. AI literacy is fundamental for those in business and law to lead in a technology-driven global economy.”

CAPTL will help the legal profession navigate new challenges, ranging from the ethical use of AI tools to guarding against deepfakes and AI-generated “evidence.”

CAPTL also hopes to help shape AI policy, including legislation and regulatory frameworks, at the state level and nationally. MC Law’s proximity to the Capitol offers direct access to lawmakers dealing with AI opportunities and challenges that have never before existed.

In the business arena, CAPTL hopes to not only offer guidance in navigating the legal implications of AI usage, but also to help explore commercial opportunities for AI.

LEVELING THE LEGAL PLAYING FIELD — Large law firms looking to hire MC Law graduates will expect familiarity with AI tools. For the many MC Law graduates who join smaller firms or hang shingles as solo practitioners, AI tools can be a tremendous help when going toe-to-toe with larger firms with greater resources. Mississippi, like many rural states, is home to “legal deserts,” counties or regions where access to legal services is limited. The force multiplier effect of AI could allow lawyers in these legal deserts to improve access to justice for all – a goal in keeping with MC Law’s Christian mission.

**“BUSINESS SCHOOL AND MC LAW GRADUATES MUST BE EQUIPPED TO NAVIGATE
THE ETHICAL, LEGAL, AND ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF AI ADOPTION.
ISSUES LIKE BIAS IN ALGORITHMS, DATA PRIVACY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND
WORKFORCE DISPLACEMENT ARE NO LONGER THEORETICAL – THEY ARE IMMEDIATE
CHALLENGES FACING COMPANIES TODAY. — MC Patron John Brock**



TEACHING LEGAL MINDS MACHINE THINKING

While its mission is broad and long-term, CAPTL's most immediate impact will be in the MC Law classroom.

MC Law is the first law school in the Southeast and the second in the nation to require AI certification for all first-year students before they begin summer clerkships.

"This mandatory, advanced training on the effective, ethical use of AI tools positions our students ahead of the curve," says Dean Anderson. "The potential benefits of AI technology as a force multiplier in the practice of law just can't be ignored."

AI tools can save attorneys hours in legal research time, completing work in minutes that once required weeks. In litigation, AI can process large volumes of facts and depositions, identify relevant legal precedent, and quickly generate first draft arguments. In transactional work, AI can

sketch out deal structures and model outcomes based on client goals. AI can also serve as a sounding board, helping attorneys test early arguments, identify weaknesses, and refine legal strategy.

MC Law's program also emphasizes the ethical pitfalls and risks involved in using AI tools that are still prone to error.

"We know that our students are already experimenting with AI on their own," Dean Anderson says. "If we don't teach them how to use these tools responsibly, we run the risk that they'll go into practice unprepared and with bad habits that could cost their future clients – and their own careers – dearly."

MC Law's AI program emphasizes the importance of human oversight, accountability, and the "soft skills" AI cannot replace.



A CAPTL GIFT — CAPTL launched with \$1.2 million in public and private funding, including a \$723,000 Mississippi AI Talent Accelerator Program (MAI-TAP) grant from the state of Mississippi and a private gift from longtime MC patrons John and Mary Brock. The Brocks made a gift of \$1 million – \$500,000 to MC Law and \$500,000 to the MC School of Business – to establish endowed professorships in both schools. MAI-TAP is a partnership between the Mississippi Development Authority, AccelerateMS, and Amazon Web Services.

“THIS MANDATORY, ADVANCED TRAINING ON THE EFFECTIVE, ETHICAL USE OF AI TOOLS POSITIONS OUR STUDENTS AHEAD OF THE CURVE. THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF AI TECHNOLOGY AS A FORCE MULTIPLIER IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW JUST CAN’T BE IGNORED.”

MC Law Dean John Anderson

A PROFESSION TRANSFORMED

AI is poised to reshape entire areas of the law, from intellectual property law that is already a major AI frontier, to energy law and environmental law as the infrastructure required to power machine learning systems grows. Deepfake technology and the potential for fabricated evidence are raising urgent questions in the practice of criminal law. How do the courts adapt when seeing is no longer believing?

“While law schools have to keep pace in training students in AI tools, they also need to lean into the training of lawyering skills that AI can’t replace, like sound ethical judgment and critical, imaginative thinking,” Dean Anderson says. “And AI can’t read a room or a courtroom. It can’t build trust with a client, manage expectations, and guide a client toward the best outcome. That kind of judgment and that kind of relationship just isn’t something AI can replicate.”



WHERE J.D. MEETS AI — MC LAW IS THE FIRST LAW SCHOOL IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND ONE OF THE FIRST IN THE COUNTRY TO MANDATE AI CERTIFICATION FOR ALL 1L STUDENTS.



THE ART OF AI

ARTUR “ART” MONTEIRO JOINS MC LAW AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR AI POLICY AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP (CAPTL).

A native of Brazil, Monteiro was previously the Schmidt Visiting Scholar in Artificial Intelligence, Emerging Technologies, and National Power program at Yale University’s Jackson School of Global Affairs, where he taught global law and policy of AI. He was also a resident fellow at Yale Law School’s Information Society Project. He has written, spoken, and presented internationally on numerous machine learning topics. He holds a doctorate in law from the University of São Paulo.

Monteiro was drawn to MC Law by the opportunity to take a leadership position in building a multifaceted AI legal center from the ground up, describing his new role as “a tremendous responsibility that I’m very much looking forward to.”

Monteiro hopes CAPTL will become a regional hub for AI events, product demonstrations, panel discussions, and student-led research. Perhaps most of all, he looks forward to teaching.

“I realized midway through my graduate studies that I absolutely adore the classroom. I am very excited about getting to know the students at MC and figuring out how I might be able to support them with AI.”

While the move from Connecticut to Mississippi comes with some culture change, Monteiro is particularly excited about two aspects of relocating to Jackson.

“I will no longer be standing at a bus stop looking at a pile of snow separating me from the bus,” Monteiro says. “And on a visit to MC, President Blake Thompson took me to a local barbecue restaurant. I sent a photo of the meal to my wife with a text that said, ‘This food is completely next level. We are going to have to be careful about how much we eat here.’”

CHARTING THE
FUTURE
OF HEALTH LAW





Justus Owen, MC Law professor Jonathan Will, Shelby Wagner, and Shawn Jackson

“HAVING A HEALTH LAW CENTER IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HEALTHCARE ACCESS ISSUES ARE VERY REAL, PARTICULARLY FOR RURAL AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES,” SAYS MC LAW STUDENT SHELBY WAGNER. “WHAT WE LEARN IN CLASS IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOORS.”

MC Law’s Bioethics and Health Law Center explores complex legal and ethical issues within the ever-evolving healthcare industry. The center offers specialized coursework that allows students to graduate with a certificate in health law – preparation for in-demand roles in compliance, insurance, and policy development, or for entry-level positions that could eventually lead to careers as in-house counsel or compliance officers with hospitals or healthcare systems.

In 2025, *preLaw* magazine recognized MC Law as one of the country’s top schools for health law, an affirmation of the program’s depth and impact.

“Our recognition as a top health law school acknowledges all we’re doing to prepare our students to influence policy,” says Professor Jonathan Will, founding director of the Bioethics and Health Law Center. “Healthcare touches so many aspects of the law, from patients to providers, from regulators to politicians. We’re equipping students to have a seat at the table on these incredibly complex issues.”

Courses introduce students to the structure of the U.S. healthcare system and its labyrinth of rules and regulations. Students also wrestle with the thorny issues of healthcare reform, discrimination and disparities in healthcare, ethical questions about the commodification of healthcare, reproductive rights, and other hot-button issues.

IN MISSISSIPPI, THOSE DISCUSSIONS ARE FAR FROM THEORETICAL. THE STATE HAS LONG RANKED AT THE BOTTOM NATIONALLY IN VIRTUALLY EVERY INDICATOR FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS. FOR MANY STUDENTS, RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURES, PROVIDER SHORTAGES, AND LIMITED ACCESS TO TREATMENT AND PREVENTIVE CARE ARE FIRSTHAND, LIVED REALITIES.

“My life represents one big experience that fed my interest in studying health law,” says MC Law student Shawn Jackson, who also serves as a Warren County, Mississippi, supervisor. “I am a middle-aged, African American woman, an elected official, and the mother of three young adults, living in Mississippi. Dealing with healthcare is an omnipresent situation in my life. I think about healthcare issues daily, engage with healthcare issues directly, or am called upon by constituents with issues related to healthcare.”

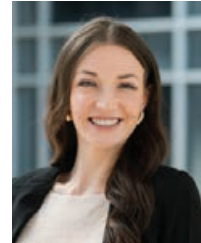
Health law is also personal for Wagner, who lost an expected niece at 22 weeks’ gestation and watched her grandfather battle both ALS and a healthcare system that she felt “sent him home to die.”

“Those experiences stayed with me,” Wagner says. “I wanted to better understand why certain outcomes happen, how decisions in healthcare get made, and what role policy plays in moments that are so life-changing for families.”

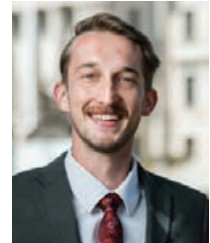
“Sitting alongside classmates with different backgrounds and priorities helped me see how broad the healthcare landscape really is,” student Justus Owen says. “Everyone comes to the table facing a different problem. That perspective has been just as valuable as any statute or case we studied.”



Shawn Jackson



Shelby Wagner



Justus Owen

The MC Law program attracts students who not only want to understand the complexities of health law, but also want to use their legal training to improve Mississippi’s health trajectory.

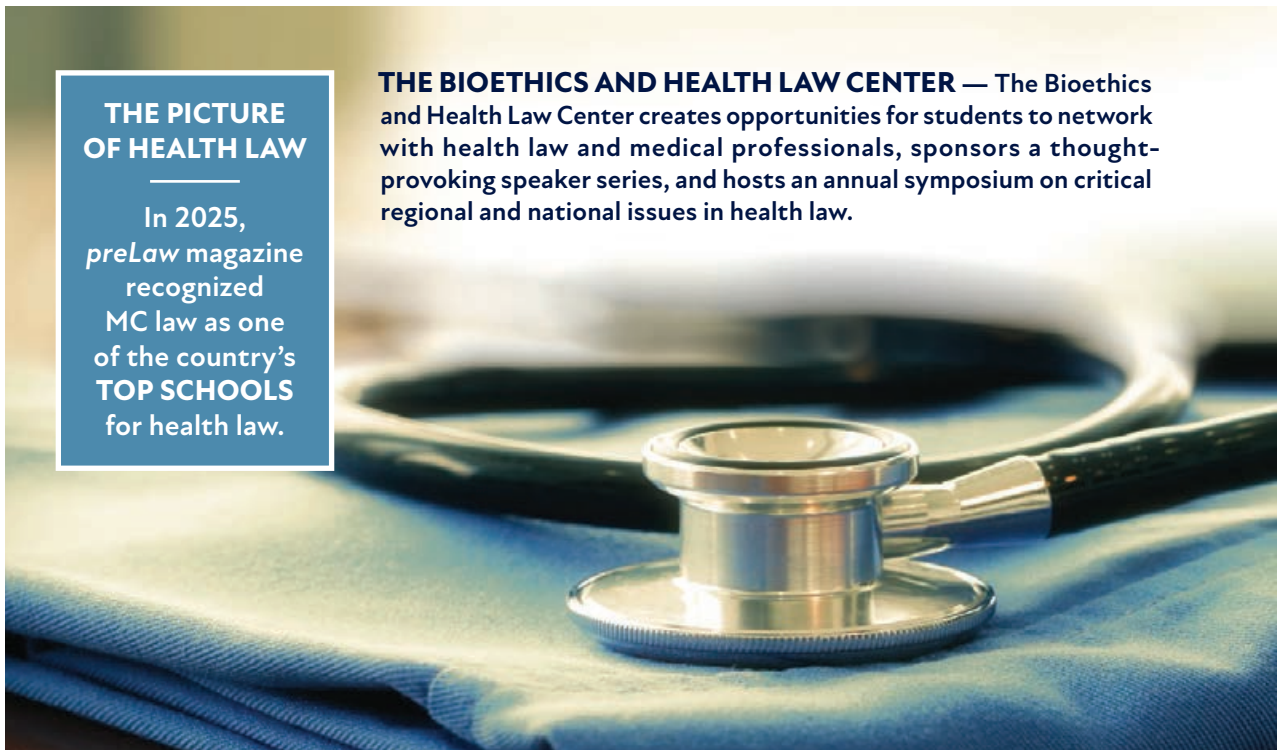
“There is a Christian ideal of being understanding and empathetic,” Will says. “A law school with a Christian mission draws students who want to make a difference.”

Jackson is already applying what she’s learned to her work as a county supervisor, exploring options that might expand preventive care for county employees. Wagner completed a clerkship with the National Center for Youth Law’s Health Department, which, she says, “confirmed health law is the direction I want to go.”

THE PICTURE OF HEALTH LAW

In 2025, *preLaw* magazine recognized MC law as one of the country’s **TOP SCHOOLS** for health law.

THE BIOETHICS AND HEALTH LAW CENTER — The Bioethics and Health Law Center creates opportunities for students to network with health law and medical professionals, sponsors a thought-provoking speaker series, and hosts an annual symposium on critical regional and national issues in health law.



Owen works in healthcare policy with Jackson-based Ten One Strategies, a government relations firm. The role finds him tracking legislation, meeting with lawmakers, and helping shape strategies around healthcare access, insurance policy, public health initiatives, and mental health services.

“I’ve taken what I’ve learned in class directly to the Capitol,” Owen says. “For example, discussions in class about scope-of-practice limitations directly informed conversations I had at the capitol regarding expanding nurse practitioners’ ability to serve patients. Our study of insurance frameworks and federal healthcare regulations helped me discuss reform with an understanding of regulatory authority. What I brought wasn’t just an opinion – it was a legal context that changed how conversations were received. Lawmakers and stakeholders respond differently when arguments are grounded in statutory structure and precedent.”

While Mississippi faces unique healthcare challenges, MC Law students also believe the state offers unique opportunities for health law leadership.

“Need can be the best catalyst for innovation,” Jackson says. “A law school based in Mississippi with an intentional focus on health law is positioned to be dynamic in its research and curriculum offerings. While the need in Mississippi is great, the ability to study and craft solutions with the stakeholders is just as great.”

“Meaningful reform requires collaboration between policymakers, providers, advocates, and legal professionals,” Owen says. “The Bioethics and Health Law Center is a space where those conversations happen. And MC Law’s location within walking distance of the capitol means theory and practice are constantly interacting. I’ve had days where I met with legislators in the morning to discuss healthcare legislation, and then walked straight into class to analyze similar issues through a legal framework.”

“One of my favorite student evaluation comments is ‘this should be a required class,’” Will says. “Students think it’s important enough content that everyone ought to know it.”

“We see quite a bit of ‘brain drain’ in certain areas, but Mississippi is very much a homegrown state as it relates to law,” Jackson says. “A great deal of our attorneys attend law school here and tend to stay here to practice. A network of health law experts here within the state is key to solving Mississippi’s healthcare challenges.”



“Having a strong health law program at MC Law means we are training the next generation of attorneys who understand both the complexity of our healthcare system and the unique needs of Mississippi. That kind of expertise is invaluable. I’ve seen firsthand how that preparation and experience translate into real, meaningful contributions to the legislative process. I am proud to work alongside MC Law students and graduates who are helping us build better health policy for our state.” — Sam Creekmore

Above: John Dillon Harris, senior policy analyst with the Center for Mississippi Health Policy; Justus Owen; and Mississippi Representative Sam Creekmore, chair of the House Public Health and Human Service Committee

“A benefit of being in a smaller state like Mississippi is that our students much more quickly become people of influence in the state,” Will says. “Within three or four years of their graduation – or like Shawn and Justus, even *before* they graduate – they’re running for office or working with the legislature on real healthcare policies. We’ve got people who are out there making a difference, right outside our classroom doors.”



Donald Campbell



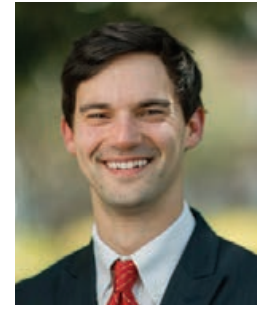
Angela Dixon



Hilary Escajeda



Heather Hall



Milton Hernandez



DONALD CAMPBELL

Donald Campbell, the Owen Cooper Professor of Law, took over as author of Professor Robert Weems' respected treatise, *Wills and Administration of Estates in Mississippi*. Professor Campbell is also the author of *Professional Responsibility & Ethics: Readings, Notes and Questions* textbook, currently in its 9th edition; editor and author for *Encyclopedia of Mississippi Law*; and editor and author for *Mississippi Civil Procedure*. He is a frequent speaker on issues related to ethics, wills, and property.

ANGELA DIXON

Angela Dixon presented at Drexel Kline Law School's *Weaving It All Together: Hair Health, Law & Policy* in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her discussion focused on the evolution of grooming codes in American society and the accompanying social, cultural, and legal contexts. Professor Dixon also presented at the LatCrit 2025 30th Anniversary Conference in Denver, Colorado, exploring a discussion of "Culture, Hair, Power, and Stigmatization." Cleveland State University Law School published Dixon's work, *Unshackled: Why Eliminating Health Disparities Requires that Our Criminal Justice System Set Incarcerated Mothers and Their Developing Children Free*.

HILARY ESCAJEDA

Taking a break from her artificial intelligence research, Hilary Escajeda is working on a new project, *Jurassic*

Jurispudence: Taxation of Tyrant Lizard Kings. Inspired by billionaire collector Ken Griffin's 2024 purchase of a *Stegosaurus* named Apex for \$ 44.6 million, the project explores how current U.S. tax laws subsidize the activities of wealthy collectors, fuel the illegal fossil trade, and undermine scientific understanding of the Earth's history. *Jurassic Jurispudence* argues that tailored tax policies can support science, and recommends updating tax laws and regulations to ensure that scientifically significant paleontological specimens remain available for scientific research and public education.

HEATHER HALL

Heather Hall was named MC Law's director of bar passage and academic success in May 2025, and facilitated the inaugural Camp ESQ, the law school's first-ever summer bar prep camp. Students provided each other with accountability, while MC Law provided support via study sessions, food, and "as much fun as one can have while studying for the bar." The program was a huge success; the Mississippi Bar passage rate for MC Law first-time takers in July was 89%. The July 2025 Louisiana Bar passage rate for May 2025 MC Law graduates was 93%. Professor Hall also continued to bring awareness to the lack of access to justice in rural Mississippi. Her article on this topic, including proposed solutions, was published in *Mississippi Lawyer*.



Stephanie Jackson



Shirley Kennedy



Morgan Keup



Chandra Lee



Emily Lindsay

MILTON J. HERNANDEZ, IV

Milton “MJ” Hernandez helped continue the growth of MC Law’s Civil Law Program. In March 2025, he presented a paper at Louisiana State University’s International Bicentennial Conference on the Louisiana Civil Code of 1825. His paper, focusing on a 19th century codification effort in Mississippi, will be published in the *Mississippi College Law Review*. Professor Hernandez developed and administered completely online and asynchronous courses in Louisiana civil procedure and civil law of successions and donations. These asynchronous courses will further MC Law’s newest LL.M. program, a civil law studies LL.M. designed for practicing lawyers preparing to enter Louisiana practice.

STEPHANIE JACKSON ’19

Stephanie Jackson joined MC Law as an adjunct professor of sports law in 2022. In 2025, she became a fulltime faculty member as the co-director of MC Law’s new Sports, Entertainment, Arts, and Law (SEAL) Center. Professor Jackson’s research focuses on sports policy, namely transgender policies in women’s sports and contract law. Prior to joining MC Law, Jackson played professional football in the Women’s Football Alliance and the Women’s National Football Conference, winning two championships and recognition as a member of Team USA. Jackson previously worked with the Minnesota Vikings and the New York Jets. Believing that sports is a platform for bigger change, Jackson also worked with the Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (R.I.S.E.). She partnered with the NFL as a Women in Flag Football Ambassador to bring flag football to collegiate sports. Jackson is a member of the New York State Bar.

SHIRLEY KENNEDY

This year marks Shirley Kennedy’s 26th of teaching at MC Law. In 2025, Kennedy combined the MC Law family law clinics into one larger clinic, now known as the Child Advocacy Clinic. Participating law students work under clinic supervision as guardians ad litem, attorneys for adoptive parents, and advocates in Hinds and Rankin County Youth Courts. Twenty-one law students are working in the clinic during the spring semester. Professor Kennedy

recently received a Mississippi Supreme Court appointment to the Court Improvement Plan Statewide Multidisciplinary Task Force to further Mississippi’s child welfare system. While Kennedy plans to retire at the end of the semester, she intends to continue to serve on the boards of Mission First Legal Aid and CASA Mississippi.

MORGAN KEUP ’17

Morgan Keup joined the MC Law faculty in 2025 as assistant professor of legal communication and analysis (LAC). She was previously a member of the legal department at Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. Professor Keup also worked in construction litigation at Jernigan Copeland, where she represented plaintiffs and defendants in a wide range of matters, including homeowner/contractor disputes and complex construction cases. A *magna cum laude* MC Law graduate, Keup hopes to share her passion for writing and oral advocacy with her students.

CHANDRA LEE

Chandra Lee worked with the administration and research faculty to incorporate legal research into the Legal Analysis and Communication (LAC) Department. She presented her paper *Ethics of GAI: Proceed with Caution* at the Mississippi State Government Lawyers’ CLE Seminar in Brandon, Mississippi, and at the 2025 Felony Prosecutors Conference in Gulfport.

EMILY LINDSAY

Emily Lindsay was appointed interim director of the law library in June 2025 following the retirement of Dean Emerita Mary Miller. In December, Professor Lindsay’s review of the *Research Handbook on Competition and Technology* edited by Pier Luigi Parcu, Maria Alessandra Rossi, and Marco Botta, was published in the *International Journal of Legal Information*. This spring semester, Lindsay is teaching a new course she designed on artificial intelligence, machine learning, and the practice of law. The course focuses on critical aspects of AI in the legal practice context and gives students hands-on experience using AI tools for simulated legal tasks.



Phillip McIntosh



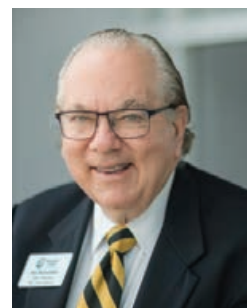
Mary Largent Purvis



Samantha Renshaw



Franklin Rosenblatt



Jim Rosenblatt

PHILLIP MCINTOSH

Phillip McIntosh's work to recruit new students includes a heavy schedule of visits to universities in Louisiana and events in Washington, D.C. He has also been busy developing asynchronous courses for the new civil law studies LL.M., a program launched in the fall of 2025 for practicing lawyers who wish to sit for the Louisiana bar. Students in the J.D. program are also eligible to enroll in these courses. Professor McIntosh continues his role as a visiting professor with Catholic University of Lille, France, teaching introduction to North American legal systems to European law students.

MARY LARGENT PURVIS '01

Mary Purvis's article, "Science and Superheroes: Impacts of Required Academic Support Course for Law Students on Growth Mindset, Self-Regulated Learning, and Academic Self-Efficacy," was published in the *University of Toledo Law Review's* fall 2025 issue. The article explores the ways in which a required, pre-start summer entry program supports students during the transition to law school. Dean Purvis also presented as part of two panel discussions at the January 2026 Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Purvis presented "From Reflection to Results: Building Faculty E-Portfolios to Foster a Data-Informed Culture in Legal Education" at the AALS Section on Academic Support meeting and "Helping Every Student Cultivate Practice-Ready Skills Across the Curriculum" at the AALS Section Teaching Methods meeting. Purvis also presented "Tik Tok and the Clock: Supporting 1L Students Through Teaching Time Management Skills" at the Associate Deans' Conference in June 2025 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

SAMANTHA RENSHAW

Samantha Renshaw's research centers on the intersection of law and technology. Published by the *Law & Psychology Review*, Professor Renshaw's article, "If a Tree Falls in Cyberspace, Is Anyone Hurt by It? Evaluating International Cybersecurity in Light of the Psychological Effects of Cyber Intrusions," explored the application of international law to cyberterrorism and its psychological effects on civilians. Published by the *Creighton International and Comparative Law Journal*, "The Artemis Accords: Interpretation and Assessment in Light of Existing Law" examined the interaction of the Artemis Accords political agreement regarding space program cooperation with existing space law.

Renshaw's works-in-progress explore emerging technologies and the law, including the legal obligations applicable to establishing a nuclear reactor on the moon, the regulation of blockchain technologies, the intellectual property implications of training generative AI, and the impact of new technologies in nontraditional warfare. In 2025, Renshaw received the inaugural "Rising Star" award from Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham in recognition of her pro bono work in the greater Birmingham, Alabama, community.

FRANKLIN ROSENBLATT

Franklin Rosenblatt has spoken at the French Senate, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, and at several law schools, including the European University Institute, University of Virginia, William & Mary, Ohio Northern, and Belmont. He authored several law review articles and book chapters, and his commentary has been featured in the *New Yorker*, *Bloomberg*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The Hill*, *Mother Jones*, *Lawfare*, *Just Security*, *Military Times*, and *Federal Sentencing Reporter*; on PBS NewsHour, NPR's Morning Edition, and Weekend Edition, NewsNation, and major news programs in Canada and Japan. Professor Rosenblatt was the 2025 keynote speaker for the annual Kerala Global Justice Dialogue in India. He serves as section chair for the 800 members of the Association of American Law School's International Human Rights section. Rosenblatt was invited to join the editorial boards of the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law (CERL), Georgetown Law's *Journal of National Security Law and Policy*, and the University Institute of Legal Studies (India) *Law Review*.

JIM ROSENBLATT

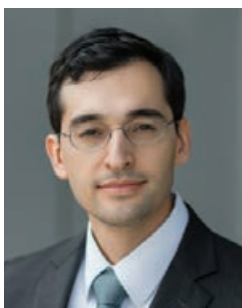
Jim Rosenblatt moved the admission of Dean John Anderson and five MC Law graduates at the U.S. Supreme Court and created this annual MC Law alumni event. Last summer, Dean Rosenblatt led 16 students on a study abroad program in Seoul, Korea, the largest enrollment for the program to date. For many years, Rosenblatt worked to develop and maintain an online program called Rosenblatt's Deans Database, which contained a variety of information about law school deans. Last fall, he transferred this database to the Association of American Law Schools, which is positioned to expand its reach; the transfer received extensive national media coverage. Rosenblatt co-authored a law review article on certified questions to the Mississippi



Caroline Smith



Matt Steffey



Daniel M. Tavera



Taylor White



Jonathan Will

Supreme Court by the Fifth Circuit and wrote three articles for the CABA newsletter. He continued his role as executive director of the Mississippi Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, while also serving as the faculty advisor for MC Law student organizations including Phi Alpha Delta, MC Law Chapter of the FBA, Oil and Gas Lawyers Association, Ducks Unlimited, and Military Justice Society. Rosenblatt shared flowers from his law school garden with students, faculty, and staff.

CAROLINE SMITH

Caroline Smith's forthcoming article, coauthored with Dean Jim Rosenblatt and Professor Emily Lindsay, "Fifth Circuit and Mississippi Law: Asked and Answered (Or Not)," is scheduled to appear in the *Mississippi College Law Review* (Vol. 43, Issue 2) and examines developments in the Fifth Circuit regarding the certification of cases to the Mississippi Supreme Court. In October 2025, Professor Smith and Professor Morgan Keup spoke at the Mississippi Law Clerk and Judicial Staff Attorney CLE, where they presented "Mapmaker, Mapmaker, Make Me a Map: Using Grammar and Selective Detail for Clear and Compelling Legal Analysis." In November 2025, Smith traveled to Starkville to serve as a guest lecturer in the English studies program at Mississippi State University, speaking with students on how an English degree can be beneficial in the legal profession.

MATT STEFFEY

Professor Matt Steffey was asked to provide legal commentary on court cases covered by Fox News, including a segment on the Mississippi welfare embezzlement scandal, and in an article on A&E's "Crime + Investigation" series on an improper prison sentence imposed on two brothers from Mississippi.

DANIEL M. TAVERA

Daniel Tavera's recent research focused on a bankruptcy court's injunctive powers, including the history, origins, and evolution of injunctive powers. A paper is forthcoming in the *Kentucky Law Journal* that analyzes the discharge in bankruptcy. Professor Tavera presented at the following conferences: Chicago-Wharton-Harvard Insolvency & Restructuring Conference, Southeastern Association of Law Schools' New Scholar Workshop, and the Annual Meeting of American Association of Law Schools' Consumer and Commercial Law session. He was appointed to the Local

Rules Advisory Committee for the Uniform Local Rules of the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Northern and Southern District of Mississippi. The directors of the American Board of Certification voted for Tavera as dean of faculty. In this role, he oversees the examinations for attorneys seeking certification in business bankruptcy, consumer bankruptcy, or creditor's rights. Tavera was selected to participate in the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judge's Next Generation Program, which includes bankruptcy professionals "who show potential to distinguish themselves in future years as highly respected members of the bankruptcy bar."

TAYLOR WHITE

Taylor White authored a textbook chapter for *Artificial Intelligence and Constitutionalism* entitled "Seeing is Not Believing: Fake Content, Real Fallout, and Legal Barriers to Stopping Deepfake Proliferation." Her contribution explained why common law tort theories fall short of redressing AI-generated harm, detailed the halfhearted legislative efforts to create a remedy for deepfake victims, and explored whether social media platform immunity has created a hotbed for harmful content. White was appointed director of the Center for Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution at MC Law. As director, she serves as the faculty chair for the Moot Court Board. The board has sent 20-plus students to compete in regional and national competitions over the last year and has brought home numerous awards for oral and written advocacy.

JONATHAN WILL

Jonathan Will is the founding director of MC Law's Bioethics & Health Law Center. For the second straight year, MC Law was named a Top School for Health Law, and was one of only 20 schools in the country to receive a rating of "A" or better. In 2025, Professor Will gave numerous presentations across the country, from AALS in San Francisco to an invited symposium in New York City. His two most recent publications are *Embryonic Children, Double Effects, and the Regulation of Reproductive Technologies* (2025), and a forthcoming 2026 paper *Health, Privacy, and Privilege in the Digital Age*. Will's primary passion is teaching. He was voted 1L Professor of the Year for AY 2024-2025. In recognition of his dedication to scholarship, teaching, and service, he was selected to hold the J. Will Young endowed chair, one of only three at MC Law.

LAW & HONOR

LAW DAY 2026

MC Law held its annual Law Day awards ceremony on April 30, 2026, honoring the outstanding achievements and dedication of students, faculty, and staff.

“LAW DAY REMINDS US WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY. It’s a chance to celebrate our students, thank our faculty members who pour so much into them, and recognize the donors who share our vision for Christian legal education. What makes this community special is our shared commitment to one another. Law Day embodies our mission to provide an outstanding legal education, one relationship at a time.”

Dean John Anderson



60
STUDENTS
RECEIVED
A TOTAL OF
\$63K
IN SCHOLARSHIPS



AWARDS CHOSEN BY MC LAW STUDENTS

*Professor
of the Year*
Frank Rosenblatt

*1L Professor
of the Year
Section X*
Mary Largent Purvis

*1L Professor
of the Year
Section Y*
Caroline Smith

*1L Professor
of the Year
Section Z*
Jonathan Will

*Adjunct Professor
of the Year*
Judge Troy Odom

Joey Phillips Award
Allen England

*Staff Employee
of the Year*
Rickey Wells

DEAN'S AWARDS

Student Award

Dean's SBA Award
Allen England

Faculty Awards

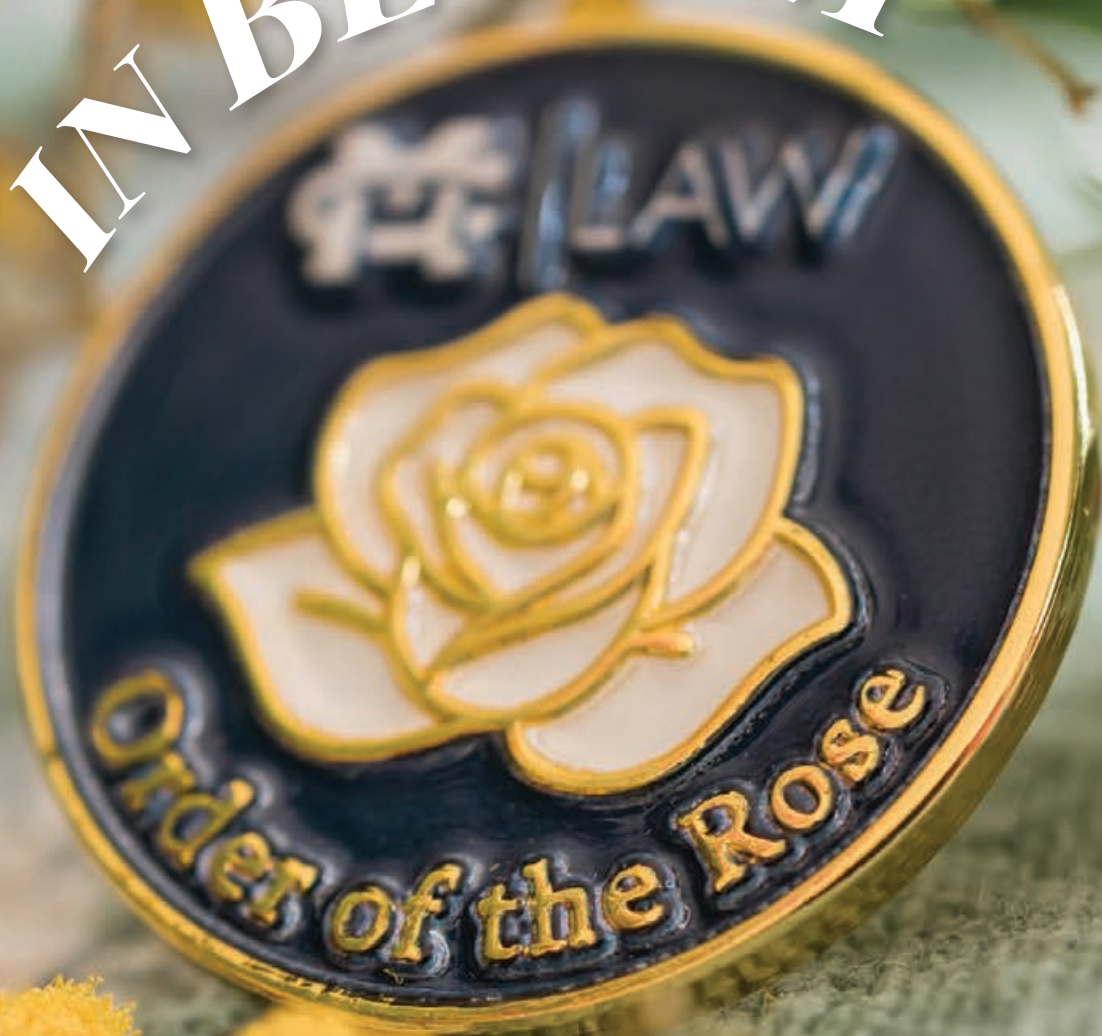
*Mississippi Defense
Lawyers Association
Award*
Professor Donald
Campbell

*Shirley Norwood
Jones Faculty
Collegiality Award*
Professor Shirley
Kennedy



GENEROSITY

IN BLOOM

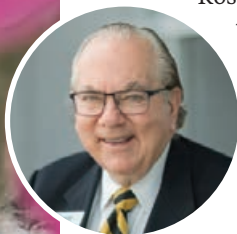


THE MC LAW ANNUAL FUND SUPPORTS SPECIAL PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS, AND ALLOWS MC LAW TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO CHALLENGES OR TO CAPITALIZE ON NEW OPPORTUNITIES THAT FULFILL THE LAW SCHOOL'S MISSION.

DONORS WHO GIVE OR PLEDGE \$10,000 OR MORE TO THE ANNUAL FUND ARE RECOGNIZED WITH MEMBERSHIP IN THE PRESTIGIOUS ORDER OF THE ROSE.

Pledge payments may be made over a period of up to five years, with donors inducted into the Order of the Rose upon completion of payment.

The organization's name is a nod of gratitude to Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt, who served as dean of MC Law from 2003 to 2014 and continues to serve as a faculty member. Dean Rosenblatt was also an inaugural member of the Order of the Rose.



"I give to MC Law because I believe in its mission and worthiness and because of what the school contributes to the legal community through its graduates and its outreach," Rosenblatt says. "I want to do my part to support MC Law as it continues to grow in stature and impact."

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE ORDER OF THE ROSE?

"ANY CAUSE THAT PRODUCES YOUNG CHRISTIAN LAWYERS IS WORTH THE INVESTMENT."

JIMBO YOCOM '19
Yocom Law Firm, LLC, Assistant District Attorney for the 26th Judicial District, City Attorney for Minden, Louisiana

"MY DAD, MY BROTHER, MY WIFE, AND I ALL GRADUATED FROM MC LAW.

My law partner, Jon Barlow, is also an alumnus. We are invested in this place. We want to give back to the people who raised us and helped us along our journeys, and we want the next generation of MC Law students to have even more and even better opportunities than we did."

MARSHALL GOFF '16
Partner, Barlow & Goff, PLLC

ORDER OF THE ROSE MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- Likeness displayed on the Wall of Honor on the MC Law campus
- Invitation to an annual dinner at the home of Dean John Anderson
- An Order of the Rose commemorative pin
- Recognition as an Order of the Rose member
- Discounted sponsorships

THE ORDER OF THE ROSE

Current Membership

Assma Ali '17
Jonathan Barlow '16
Patricia Bennett '79
Shawnassey Brooks '99
Caylan Dunnells '17
Christopher Dunnells '14
John Elliott '01
Shannon Elliott '02
Martin Frascogna '72
Mike Frascogna III '04
X.M. "Mike" Frascogna '72

Marshall Goff '14, '16
Tim Gray '95
Gerald "Jeb" Jetter, Jr. '85
J. Michael Maloney '80
Melissa Malouf '98
Mike Malouf, Jr. '96
Kent McDaniel '86
Mary Miller '85
Jim Rosenblatt
Paul Rosenblatt '12
Anthony Scardino '14
Jimbo Yocom '19

Class Actions

**PLEASE SEND FUTURE
CLASS ACTIONS
KATIE HENDERSON AT
KHENDERSON@MC.EDU**

1978

James Michael “Jim” Anderson was inducted into the Mississippi Workers’ Compensation Hall of Fame on January 22, 2026, in recognition of his 50-year career and service to the industry. Sponsored by the Mississippi Workers’ Compensation Educational Association, Inc., the Hall of Fame and induction event recognizes and celebrates the achievements of individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of workers’ compensation in Mississippi.

1994

Patrick Wooten was honored as MC Law’s Lawyer of the Year.

1996

Mariano J. Barvie was inducted as a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Judge Stephen Dillard received the 30th Annual William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

1999

Manish Has Mukh Patel was re-elected to serve another term as the disciplinary commission chairman of the Alabama State Bar.

2000

Benny M. “Mac” May was appointed deputy general counsel at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, effective December 1, 2025.

2001

Brian D. Mayo was elected to a three-year term on the board of commissioners representing District 8.

2004

Justice Jenifer Branning was the keynote speaker at the 2025 MC Law Graduation.

Amanda Alexander published an article in honor of MC Law’s 50th Anniversary.

John T. Rouse has been named the 2026 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award by the Mississippi Bar.

2005

J. Chad Floyd was appointed circuit judge in the 32nd Judicial Circuit in Cullman County, Alabama.

2007

Jennie Eichelberger is president-elect designee of the Mississippi Bar Association. She will begin her term as president-elect at the Mississippi Bar Convention in July.

2008

Judge Damon Stevenson was appointed circuit court judge for the 7th Circuit Court District of Mississippi by Governor Tate Reeves.

Ryanne Saucier created a podcast called “How Do I Do This?” which was produced and distributed by FOX. She is the vice president of legal affairs for FOX Television Stations, LLC.

G. Todd Butler appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the city of Brandon on December 3, 2025.

2011

Megan Stuard opened Stuard Thornton Law Firm in March 2025.

2012

Justin Lovorn qualified to run for circuit court judge, Place 1, for the 19th District. Lovorn has spent his entire legal career serving his community as an assistant district attorney for the 19th District.

Amber Garcia won the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel’s Frank L. Maraist Award at the LADC’s Young Lawyers Award Ceremony in August 2025.

2013

Kathleen Dixon Jaquish was promoted to associate general counsel with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee in April 2025, a director-level role within the company’s executive leadership structure.

James Rice joined the Virginia State Bar as assistant ethics counsel, where he provides ethics hotline advice to attorneys, presents CLEs, and assists the Standing Committee on Legal Ethics in the generation of legal ethics opinions.

Amber Sheppard was selected as ABA Outstanding Lawyer on the Rise and named a diversity fellow. Sheppard was also named *pro bono publico* by the Louisiana State Bar Association. She is the ABA intellectual property law vice chair for USPTO Practices, Policies, and Ethics, and is the trademark lead for the ABA IPL YLAG section.

2014

Jason D. Asbill was named to the New Orleans City Business 2025 Leadership in Law Class.

Lindsay Bethea Bainbridge and her husband, Chad, welcomed a son, Atlas Bainbridge, in 2023. The Bainbridges live overseas on assignment with the U.S. State Department at U.S. Embassies in Africa and Europe.

M.O. Eckel III is a judge with Tipton County government.

2015

The Senate recently confirmed **Baxter Kruger** (Class of 2015) as United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Adam Woods was elected as justice court judge in Rankin county, MS in 2025; was named Best Attorney by Rankin Hometown Magazine for 2025-26.

2016

Drew Williamson was appointed to a three-year term on the city of Atlanta’s first ethics board. Members are nominated by legal, business, civic, and educational groups and are appointed by the mayor and Atlanta City Council; the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce nominated Williamson for appointment. The board oversees the Ethics Office, which investigates allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse.

Michael Barnett was named The Hill's Top Lobbyist List for the second consecutive year.

2018

M. Blake Harthcock was elected to a three-year term on the board of commissioners representing District 5.

2019

Sharon Spencer opened the Sharon Spencer Law Firm, a criminal defense firm led by a former prosecutor, in September 2025.

Anne Piervil was selected as the 2026 Florida Young Lawyers Division Pro Bono Award Recipient.

2020

Emily Gillenwater married Sam Dunbar on December 13, 2025.

Alexis Rayford was named partner with Frascogna Law Group, PLLC.

2021

Chelsea Walker joined the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida as a staff attorney.

La'Bria Barnes was elected director at large for the Mississippi Bar Young Lawyers Division on January 22, 2026.

2022

Tristian Harris was appointed as District IX justice for Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity.

Judge Alexander Shepard is an analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a nonprofit think tank based in Austin, Texas. In 2025, he and his team were responsible for passing 40 bills in Texas's 89th

legislative session. Shepard specializes in private property rights, housing, and local government issues. He has been invited to testify in both the Texas Senate and House committees more than 20 times.

2025

John Scott Milam joined Mills, Scanlon, Dye & Pittman in Ridgeland, Mississippi as an associate attorney. His practice focuses on municipal and local government law, real estate law, and general litigation.

Cassandra Harmon placed first in the 2025 Howard C. Schwab Memorial Essay Contest. Her work was also published in the *Family Law Quarterly* by the American Bar Association.

Cole Lothrop began a judicial clerkship for the Honorable Judge Robert Chamberlin and the United States District Court, Northern District of Mississippi.

In Memoriam

1951

Robert H. Oswald
August 28, 2025

1962

Richard T. Bennett
March 25, 2025

1970

Henry D. Golden
March 1, 2025

1973

J. Edward Rainer
May 17, 2025

1978

Jacqueline S. Pierce
June 5, 2025

William Allen Hood
June 22, 2025

John Ralph McNeal Jr.
January 28, 2026

1979

Clyde Pinson Ballard Jr.
March 20, 2023

1980

Charles E. Griffin
June 27, 2025

1982

Johnnie Ruth Hudson
October 10, 2025

1984

Billy Jackson Thames Jr.
July 12, 2019

Joseph Alexander Purvis
January 26, 2026

1988

John N. Shirley
July 17, 2025

Dr. Joseph Nicholas Candelora
October 11, 2025

1989

Patsy A. Bush
December 1, 2024

1994

Sarah E. Gregory
October 19, 2024

2003

Lisa M. Brown
January 12, 2025

2012

Reed Thomas Nunnelee
March 31, 2026

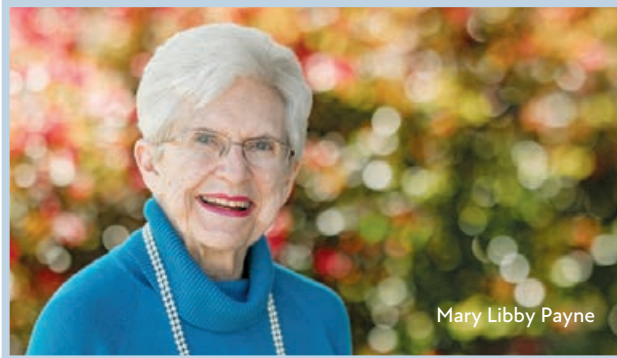


Let's do lunch.

All MC alumni are invited to First Wednesday lunches on the MC Law campus. Held on the first Wednesdays of each month during the academic year, First Wednesday is an opportunity to tour the campus and see the latest renovations, network with fellow alumni and your favorite professors, and win MC Law swag during competitive rounds of *Bingo!* hosted by Dean John Anderson. Check your email for the next opportunity to RSVP, or reach out to Katie Henderson at khenderson@mc.edu.

Closing Statement

50 YEARS ON THE RECORD



*IT WAS WITH SOME TREPIDATION,
BUT ALSO WITH A SENSE OF DESTINY,
THAT I ENTERED THE MC'S LELAND
SPEED LIBRARY ON JUNE 9, 1975.*

I followed the signs to a room on the second floor, and stepped into the dean's office of the new Mississippi College School of Law.

MC had purchased the former Jackson School of Law, and – after many prayers – I had left the security of a position as a Mississippi assistant attorney general to become the new law school's founding dean. My salary was \$26,000 per year – a handsome sum 50 years ago. Tuition was set at \$40 per semester hour, a modest price to pay for the exceptional legal education MC was committed to providing.

Those early days brought a flurry of questions. How many books, desks, and chairs to order? Who would teach which classes? And how on earth would I find time to develop a curriculum, establish a schedule, hire adjuncts, review applications, and answer the constantly ringing phone? In the summer leading up to the inaugural fall semester, I drove home each day gripping the steering wheel and affirming out loud, “God’s will for me is not always easy, but it is always good.”

At 8:00 a.m. on September 2, 1975, the first classes at MC Law officially began in a few classrooms on the MC main campus. We had previously anticipated welcoming 285 students. We ended up with 514. *Five hundred and fourteen.* I can laugh when I think about it now, but the best way to describe it was that it was a zoo!

In the opening prayer that first day, I asked God, “Father, bless us all...as we dedicate ourselves and this school and all we have to You. We thank You that You have the power to take it and magnify it and make it worth something, and help us to be in the process of glorifying You.”

During the same year that MC Law was born, Mississippi College was celebrating its 150th anniversary. The oldest institution of higher learning in the state, MC had already come through victoriously when faced with the Civil War, Reconstruction, the economic panic of 1893, the Spanish-American War, World War I, the influenza epidemic, the Great Depression, World War II, and the unrest of the Civil Rights era.

Failure to succeed in establishing a law school at MC, I believed, was simply not on God’s agenda.

Over the past 50 years, MC Law has weathered its own challenges and celebrated its own victories, from earning ABA accreditation to building nationally acclaimed law centers, from moving into its own space in the heart of Mississippi’s legal community to the current capital campaign that’s transforming the downtown campus. MC Law has produced graduates recognized not only in Mississippi, but also nationwide for their advocacy and leadership.

When I stepped into that office in 1975, I had a vision for the law school. MC Law, however, has far exceeded anything I could have imagined. Fifty years later, I’m still looking forward to the future of MC Law, and to seeing God magnify it, make it worth something, and help all of us who are a part of it glorify Him.

Might as well get thee behind me, Satan! Because God’s law school was never going to fail.

JUDGE MARY LIBBY PAYNE served as dean of MC Law from 1975 to 1978, when she stepped down to become a full-time professor. In 1994, she was elected as one of the 10 original judges on the Mississippi Court of Appeals, a position she held until her retirement in 2021. Judge Payne is the author of *A Goodly Heritage: A Memoir of Mississippi College School of Law*.



MC SCHOOL OF LAW

MC LAW'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY IS THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE A GIFT TO THE LAW SCHOOL.

If you're a first-time donor or a new graduate just starting your career, you might consider beginning your legacy at MC Law with a \$50 gift. If you're already a donor, please consider adding \$50 to your regular gift or pledge.

IF ALL 6,000 MC LAW AND JSOL ALUMNI CONTRIBUTED JUST

\$50 EACH

*Together we would raise more than
\$300,000
to further Christian legal education.*

WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE BUILDING FUND, ANNUAL FUND, OR GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, you help secure the future of MC Law and further Christian legal education in Mississippi. Gifts in any amount are tax-deductible and deeply appreciated.

THE MC LAW BUILDING FUND

Phases 1 and 2 are complete. Help MC Law finish its transformation with a gift toward Phases 3 and 4.
To give, visit: law.mc.edu

THE ANNUAL FUND

Help grow this unrestricted account, which allows MC Law to respond quickly to challenges or to capitalize on new opportunities that fulfill the law school's mission.

To give, visit: law.mc.edu

THE 151 SOCIETY

The 151 Society provides exclusive opportunities for involvement and honors donors who contribute \$151 or more annually to the Annual Fund.
To join, visit: law.mc.edu/alumni/giving-societies

THE ORDER OF THE ROSE

The Order of the Rose recognizes donors who give or pledge \$10,000 or more to the Annual Fund. Pledge payments may be made over a period

of up to five years. Donors are inducted into the Order of the Rose upon completion of payment.
To join, visit: law.mc.edu/alumni/giving-societies

THE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Support MC Law in recruiting and retaining promising future lawyers with a gift to the General Scholarship Fund.
To support future attorneys, visit: law.mc.edu



SCHOOL
OF LAW

151 JAMES H. MEREDITH DRIVE • JACKSON, MS 39201

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #134

LAW.MC.EDU

 | SCHOOL
OF LAW

ALL RISE

