

University of Mississippi

eGrove

University of Mississippi News

5-18-2016

New Parental Rights Legislation Designed by UM Law School Team

Jenny Kate Luster

Follow this and additional works at: <https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews>

Recommended Citation

Luster, Jenny Kate, "New Parental Rights Legislation Designed by UM Law School Team" (2016).
University of Mississippi News. 2139.
<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2139>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Mississippi News by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

New Parental Rights Legislation Designed by UM Law School Team

Law addresses concerns highlighted in landmark case, helps provide better results for children

MAY 18, 2016 BY JENNY KATELUSTER



Members of the TPR Study Group with Gov. Phil Bryant (from left): Randy Pierce, Mississippi Judicial College director; Patti Marshall, Miss. attorney general's office; Bill Charlton, MJC staff attorney; Bryant; Carole Murphey, MJC staff attorney; David Calder, associate clinical professor at the UM School of Law; Judge John Hudson, jurist in residence; and Judge Tom Broome, Rankin county court judge. Photo by Beverly Kraft/Mississippi Administrative Offices of the Court

OXFORD, Miss. – On April 18, Gov. Phil Bryant signed the Termination of Parental Rights Act, a piece of legislation proposed by the Termination of Parental Rights Study Group and designed by a team assembled by the **University of Mississippi School of Law**.

The Parental Rights Study Group was convened at the suggestion of Chief Justice William Waller Jr. and chaired by former Associate Justice Randy Pierce, who is director of the Mississippi Judicial College, a division of the UM School of Law tasked with educating and training Mississippi judges and court personnel.

"After the Mississippi Supreme Court's decision in the *Chism v. Bright* case, it became

necessary for the Legislature to modify the then-existing statutes to provide a workable framework in termination cases," Pierce said. "I was on the court when *Chism* was handed down and agreed with that decision, as did a unanimous court.

"However, the case magnified a need to study the TPR statutes. Chief Justice Waller asked me to chair a study group and to invite various stakeholders to participate."

Chism v. Bright essentially reversed a judgment by the Union County Chancery Court that took away parental rights from a father, saying all the prerequisites had not been met to do so. It also upheld the idea that there should be strict standards to apply when terminating the rights of parents.

The study group members included David Calder, UM law professor and director of the school's **Child Advocacy Clinic**, and MJC staff attorneys Bill Charlton and Carole Murphey. In addition to resolving the concern raised in *Chism*, the study group sought to clarify other aspects of TPR cases and improve the fairness and efficiency of those proceedings.

Based on the study group's recommendations, Charlton worked closely with Calder and Murphey to draft the proposed legislation. Calder provided a practitioner's viewpoint in shaping the procedures and definitions included in the bill. Murphey assisted in organizing the overall structure of the legislation.

"David Calder, our child advocacy clinical professor, has been a tireless advocate for children for over 20 years," Said Deborah Bell, dean of the School of Law. "His expertise, research and advice played an important role in the passage of this important legislation."

The passage of the legislation helps Mississippi take a step toward becoming a model child welfare state, Charlton said.

"It was a special honor serving with the distinguished members of the study group who likewise share that goal, and Justice Pierce's leadership as chair made it happen," he said. "All the members of the study group played a significant role in the drafting process. I'm proud that House Bill 1240 passed in both the House and Senate by clear majority votes and with bipartisan support."

Other study group members were:

- Eugene Fair, judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals
- Cynthia Brewer, chancery court judge
- Patricia Wise, chancery court judge

Follow us on social



Campus Briefs

Civil Engineering Professor Receives Most-Cited Paper Award

OXFORD, Miss. – Peer recognition is a rewarding experience for anyone, but University of Mississippi researcher Amir Mehrara Molan was elated when an article he co-authored recently received the Most Cited Paper Award at the 102nd Transportation Research Board meeting in the nation's capital. The International Journal of Transportation Science and Technology presented the civil engineering

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Thank You To Our Donors

Young Alumna Gives Back to School of Accountancy

OXFORD, Miss. – Stephanie Jennings Teague, of Chicago, sees her commitment of \$100,000 to the Patterson School of Accountancy's new building at the University of Mississippi as a means of saying "thank you." "It is a way to show a small token of my appreciation to Ole Miss, the faculty and staff, and the accounting

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

Ole Miss In the News

Reuters: Keep an Eye on the Money Supply

U.S. inflation roller coaster prompts fresh look at long-ignored money supply By Michael S. Derby NEW YORK – The amount of money sloshing around the U.S. economy shrank last year for the first time on record, a development that some economists believe bolsters the case for U.S. inflation pressures continuing to

- Tom Broome, county court judge
- John Hudson, jurist in residence
- Patti Marshall, special assistant Mississippi attorney general
- Earl Scales, special assistant Mississippi attorney general
- Joyce Hill Williams, special assistant Mississippi attorney general
- Jeffrey Rimes, Taggart, Rimes & Graham PLLC
- Caryn Quilter, staff attorney at the Mississippi Senate
- Gwennetta Tatum, staff attorney at the Mississippi House of Representatives

"Playing a role in this endeavor was rewarding and meaningful," Pierce said. "The Termination of Parental Rights Act work product required an enormous amount of time and effort.

"However, our goal in every case affecting a child is to have the best outcome possible. The new law will help provide better outcomes for children. And for that, I'm grateful to all who came together to get this done."



FILED UNDER: **NEWS RELEASES, SCHOOL OF LAW**

abate. The Federal Reserve's

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category

[Return to top of page](#)

Copyright © 2023 · **The University of Mississippi**