

4-16-2018

Law Alumna and Adjunct Professor to Clerk on U.S. Supreme Court

Jordan Thomas

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

Recommended Citation

Thomas, Jordan, "Law Alumna and Adjunct Professor to Clerk on U.S. Supreme Court" (2018). *University of Mississippi News*. 2719.

<https://egrove.olemiss.edu/umnews/2719>

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.

Law Alumna and Adjunct Professor to Clerk on U.S. Supreme Court

Tobi Young hopes to apply her real-world legal experience while clerking for Justice Neil Gorsuch

APRIL 16, 2018 BY JORDAN THOMAS



Tobi Young

OXFORD, Miss. – Tobi Young, a 2003 graduate of the University of Mississippi **School of Law** and an adjunct professor, has been selected as a U.S. Supreme Court clerk for Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Young, who graduated with high honors, will serve during the court's 2018-19 term.

"The law school is so excited for Tobi, who has been an excellent professor and mentor to our students," said Susan Duncan, UM law dean. "She has had an incredible career thus far, and we know she will be excellent in this position."

Young is the school's first female graduate to clerk for the Supreme Court. W. Wayne Drinkwater, who graduated in 1974, clerked for Chief Justice Warren Burger during the 1975-76 term, and Judge Rhesa Barksdale, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, clerked for Justice Byron White during the 1972-73 term after graduating in 1972.

Coincidentally, Gorsuch also clerked for White, as well as for Justice

Anthony Kennedy.

Young first met Gorsuch while working at the Department of Justice. He helped oversee the Civil Rights Division, where Young worked initially as a trial lawyer and then as counsel to the assistant attorney general. Gorsuch later recommended her as a clerk to Judge Jerome A. Holmes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Gorsuch also was appointed to the Tenth Circuit in 2006.

"After my clerkship, my husband and I kept in touch with then-Judge Gorsuch during his 10 years on the bench," Young said. "He would occasionally send us articles he wrote, and when we visited Denver, he always made time to join us for lunch or visit with us in his chambers.

"When I learned he was going to be announced as the next Supreme Court nominee, I joined a few former colleagues and traveled to D.C. to assist with his confirmation."

Young recalls Gorsuch's confirmation process as both exhilarating and exhausting.

"We worked around the clock for nearly three months," she said. "I was fortunate enough to be at the White House when he was announced as the nominee by President Trump, and it was such an inspiring moment watching a mentor accept the nomination with such humility and humor."

It's common for newer justices to bring in former clerks and colleagues in their first few years on the Supreme Court. Gorsuch asked Young if she was interested in clerking for him, an idea that she hadn't even considered.

But, as Young said, "How can you turn down an opportunity to clerk at the Supreme Court? It's not a prospect I had ever pursued, but it was such an honor for him to have placed his trust in me. I'm excited to work for him, and lucky to have an amazing support system that enables me to be a mother and take this position."

Young's husband, Evan, who also is an adjunct professor at the Ole Miss law school and a partner at Baker Botts LLP, clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia during the 2004-05 term.

"Evan still frequently refers to his experiences at the court and with Justice Scalia, who also had a great affinity for Mississippi," she said. "Being Justice Scalia's clerk transformed his life and the way he

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

approaches the practice of law.

"If he is still buzzing about his clerkship, there must be something magical to that experience."

Young is general counsel in the Office of President George W. Bush, as well as general counsel and board secretary for the George W. Bush Presidential Center. Before that, she was an associate White House counsel under Bush.

"I am extremely grateful to President and Mrs. Bush for their example and for having given me the opportunity to work for and with them for over a decade," she said. "Having practiced law in both the government and the private sector, I have experienced the profession as more than a theoretical puzzle. I hope this real-world experience will help me serve Justice Gorsuch well."

Young excelled during her time at Ole Miss and was invited to give the Commencement speech for the 2016 School of Law graduation.

"I truly enjoyed my time at Ole Miss, and appreciate the support that has continued," she said. "My professors taught me the fundamentals of the law, while also consistently emphasizing the importance of upholding the ethical expectations of our field – an area lawyers can never underscore enough. That's a topic that Evan and I focus on with our Ole Miss students."

This spring, Young and her husband are teaching a class together entitled "Uncle Sam Wants You?" which focuses on opportunities for and ethical responsibilities of lawyers who work at any level of government. As professors, the Youngs feel that not only teaching the curriculum, but also being a mentor to their students, is vital.

"We could not have been more impressed with the engagement level and the intellectual curiosity of this class," she said. "We hope to continue being involved with the law school for many years to come."

 FILED UNDER: [NEWS RELEASES](#), [SCHOOL OF LAW](#)

abate. The Federal Reserve's

[Read the story ...](#)

More Posts from this Category