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School of Law Announces 2021 Business Law Fellows

Fellowship allows students to spend summer in nation's leading companies

JUNE 21, 2021 BY CHRISTINA STEJBE

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Nine students from the University of Mississippi School of Law have been selected to participate in the 2021 Business Law Fellowship program. They are (from top left to right): Carter Babaz, Chandler Coleman, Le'Ronda Gates, Daniel Ginn, Zach Ishee, Teresa Jones, Tanya McGill, Margaret Pitts and Garner Vance. Submitted photos

OXFORD, Miss. – The **University of Mississippi School of Law** has selected nine students to participate in the 2021 Business Law Fellowship program.

This year's business law fellows are Carter Babaz, Chandler Coleman, Le'Ronda Gates, Daniel Ginn, Zach Ishee, Teresa Jones, Tanya McGill, Margaret Pitts and Garner Vance.

The program allows first-year law students who are interested in business and corporate law an opportunity to spend the summer in general counsel offices and other departments of some of the nation's leading companies.

"We are so incredibly proud of our unique Business Law Fellowship program," said Susan Duncan, the school's dean. "It typically takes someone years of practice in the legal profession before they are able to gain corporate experience.

"We are grateful to our corporate partners for extending this opportunity of invaluable experience to some of our top students. This is just another way we strive at UM law to ensure our graduates are practice-ready when they enter the profession."

Previous corporate participants have included FedEx, C Spire, International Paper and Entergy Mississippi.

"I pursued the Business Law Fellowship because I wanted the opportunity to gain experiences in the day-to-day operations and responsibilities of in-house counsel for a major corporation," Jones said.

"As a fellow, the BLF has provided me with the chance to learn directly from leading corporate counsels and to clerk at both a top firm in the state and at a Fortune 500 company."

The students were selected from a competitive interview and essay process. Besides spending a summer working for a major company, business law fellows also take advanced business courses, including Corporations, Mergers and Acquisitions; Business Law Writing; and Accounting for Lawyers.

"The fellowship presents a unique opportunity to learn directly from professionals in the corporate law field," Pitts said. "It also allows me the chance to incorporate my business background into my legal education.

"The BLF has provided me with both of these experiences as I have worked in-house at C Spire this

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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

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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

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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

summer.”

The fellowship began in 2019 and is part of the school’s business law program within the [Business Law Institute](#). National Jurist consistently recognizes the school as one of the best institutions in the nation for business law.

Carter Babaz, of Atlanta, graduated from the University of Georgia in 2019 with a bachelor’s degree in finance and international business. She worked for Deloitte as an engagement financial adviser for a year before starting law school in fall 2020. This summer, Babaz will be working in Atlanta at Nelson Mullins.

Chandler Coleman, a native of Pontotoc, attended Millsaps College for his undergraduate studies in business administration. He graduated from the UM [Patterson School of Accountancy](#) with a master’s degree in taxation and data analytics. He will be working in Huntsville, Alabama, this summer at Maynard Cooper and Gale.

Le’Ronda Gates, from Atlanta, graduated from Alabama State University with a bachelor’s degree in political science and Strayer University with a master’s degree in public administration. Before law school, she worked at the Southern Poverty Law Center, the law offices of Elizabeth Winfield, athenahealth Inc., State Farm Property and Casualty Insurance, and Farmers Insurance, where she specialized in life and commercial insurance, consulting with families and small businesses.

As a grant writer for Harriet Tubman PTO Aftercare, her primary focus was creating after-school programs that promoted STEAM – science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics – programs for minority students. This summer, Gates is working for FedEx Express.

Daniel Ginn is from Weatherford, Texas. He graduated from Texas A&M University with a bachelor’s degree in history. Before law school, he worked for Tri-County Electric Cooperative in Fort Worth, Texas. This summer, he will be working for Entergy Mississippi.

Zach Ishee, from Odessa, Florida, graduated from Mississippi State University with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural economics. During his undergraduate and graduate summers, he worked at the Minneapolis Grain Exchange and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in Washington, D.C. This summer, he is working for FedEx Freight.

Teresa Jones is a native of Sharkey County, and she graduated from Ole Miss with a bachelor’s degree in political science. Before attending the School of Law, she worked at the White House, the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives and for multiple state and national campaigns.

Her interest in business and corporate law stems from her experiences working at a minority-owned corporation in Columbus, where she assisted the CEO with business development and contract proposals. This summer, Jones will work at Butler Snow and International Paper.

Tanya McGill, from Atlanta, graduated from the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia in 2020 with a bachelor’s degree in marketing. Before attending the School of Law, McGill worked as an in-house counsel intern for Golden State Foods in Irvine, California.

This summer, she will work at Butler Snow in Nashville for the first half of the summer and Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer P.A. in Atlanta for the second half.

Margaret Pitts, a native of Waynesboro, earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Mississippi State University in 2016. Before attending law school, she worked for Ballew Wealth Management, a private wealth management firm in Jackson. While working, she completed her master’s degree in business administration at Millsaps College. Pitts will spend the summer working for C Spire.

Garner Vance is a native of Grenada, and he graduated from Ole Miss in 2017 with a bachelor’s degree in [chemical engineering](#). Before attending law school, he worked for three years as a process engineer with Resolute Forest Products. Vance will be working at Yates Construction in Jackson and Birmingham, Alabama, and Gilpin Givhan in Montgomery, Alabama, this summer.

For more information about the School of Law, visit <https://law.olemiss.edu>.

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