

beneficial work

OUTSIDE THE COURT

Law school chapter of Student Hurricane Network helps to relieve, restore

The graduate School of Law continued their tradition of being recognized for more than strong academic ability. The School rose two positions in the U. S. News and World Report Rankings, from 30th to 28th best Law School in the country, tied with George Washington University. However, the school remained focused on more than just rankings. This past Spring Break, the W&M chapter of the national Student Hurricane Network organized a trip to offer continued aid to the flood and hurricane-ravaged Gulf region.

The Student Hurricane Network had been in action for more than two years and was formed in 2005 in response to the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Dedicated to providing legal and physical assistance to the Gulf Coast region, more than 3,000 students from 110 U.S. law schools have responded to the need in the past two years.

During spring break, the students volunteered in many areas, including legal, public interest, and community-based projects. Students were placed at Desire Street Ministries helping to restore Gloria's, a beloved restaurant in the city. At the Louisiana Green Corps, students aided in educating New Orleans' youth to learn how to deconstruct and construct new homes in Louisiana that are environmentally-friendly while obtaining their GED, applying for and succeeding in college, and becoming productive members of society.

The students who volunteered at the City Attorney's office drafted legal memorandums and helped to ease the caseload of the staff attorneys. The last organization that the group volunteered with was the Louisiana Bucket Brigade, concentrating on environmental health and justice to residents in the city who are often denied access to environmentally-sound housing, food, and play areas. "The trip made a meaningful difference in every student's life, let alone our law studies," Chanel Gray, class of 2010 said. "The experiences we had on the trip helped to prove that the law is not separate from life, but intertwined and inseparable. Our clients are real people, with real problems who need not just a lawyer who knows statutes and case law, but an advocate, concerned with the best interests of the people who come to us for help," Gray said.

Overall, the Law School's involvement with the Student Hurricane Network helped them see a beneficial and much-needed application of their future careers.

>Katherine Orth

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Genevieve Jenkins and Kelsey Clyburn work on renovating a building destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. Not only did the law students participate in physical repairs in Louisiana, but they also used their law skills to help get the city back on its feet.



Photo courtesy of Rita Murphy.

>school of law in short

Beyond the classroom, law students can choose to help plan and research for the Annual Supreme Court Preview sponsored by the Institute of Bill of Rights Law attended by national journalists.

Historic alumni abound in the law school. Presidents Jefferson and Monroe, Henry Clay and Chief Justice John Marshall all studied law under George Wythe, the nation's first professor of law.

At the urging of Thomas Jefferson in 1779, the College became the first university to offer professional law education. It was historically named the Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

A civic leadership program known as the George Wythe Society of Citizen Lawyers arranges community service projects, lectures, and conferences to aid students in becoming "citizen lawyers."