
GREEN HILLS NEWS

VOLUME 25

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

NUMBER 6

February 14, 2013, *The News* - Page 9

Volunteer works with homeless

Lawyer takes law outside courtroom

Jenny Upchurch
Associate Editor

Tera Rica Murdock might spend her work time arguing high-level cases in health care and manufacturing, but many of her off hours are dedicated to bringing legal help to those on the streets.

Murdock, 28, a trial lawyer at Waller, Nashville's largest and oldest law firm, was recently honored by the Nashville Bar Association Young Lawyer Division with its Leadership Award for her efforts to help the homeless. Murdock received the award for her work in establishing the HELP Legal Clinic at Nashville's Room In The Inn



Tera Rica Murdock was honored by the Nashville Bar Association.

and for her involvement with the annual Toiletry Drive for the Homeless.

At the HELP clinic, lawyers meet with clients at the Room In the Inn. Sometimes they give legal advice, such as how to pursue a personal injury claim or have voting rights restored and referring people to agencies such as Legal Aid. And sometimes the lawyers simply give advice on working through problems, Murdock said.

She became interested in homeless issues while going to Vanderbilt law school. Murdock volunteered with Street Law, a program in which law students went into the com-

munity and helped with issues such as expunging an arrest or negotiating a lease. It was conducted through the Campus for Human Development.

Murdock also works with Wills for Heroes. That program assists preparing wills for members of the armed services before deployment and for community first responders.

"Tera Rica is not only an asset to our firm, but she is someone who is truly making Nashville better for us all," said John Tishler, chairman of Waller. "We're proud of her and delighted that she received this great honor from the Nashville Bar Association."

She is a board member with the NBA YLD and serves as chair of the Homeless Committee. She is a supporter of the YWCA of Nashville and

Middle Tennessee and also provides pro bono legal services through the Legal Aid Society. In 2012, she was honored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as one of Nashville's Top 30 Under 30 professionals.

Murdock is a member of the Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations, as well as the Lawyer's Association for Women.

Murdock earned her bachelor's degree summa cum laude, in Spanish and Chemistry from Murray State University in Kentucky, where she was named Murray State's Outstanding Senior Woman and was a presidential scholar.

Outside her work and volunteerism, Murdock likes to travel and learn languages. She recently visited her family in Indonesia.