

FIRST RECIPIENT OF WYATT, TARRANT & COMBS' LAW SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Scholarship in Honor of Civil Rights Leader, Benjamin L. Hooks Established to Increase Diversity at University of Memphis Law School ...



Left to right: Terence Lewis (President & CEO of Trust One Bank), Corey Strong, Frances Hooks, Bill Hollander and Richard Raines



Left to right: Odell Horton, Jr., Corey Strong, Glen Reid and Mark Vorder-Bruegge

Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP, in conjunction with the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis, has created the Benjamin L. Hooks Law Scholarship, which will fund the law school tuition and course-related expenses of an incoming law student. The first recipient of the scholarship, Corey Strong, was announced Wednesday, August 10, at the law firm's Memphis office at 1715 Aaron Brenner Drive.

Mr. Strong was awarded the scholarship during a ceremony that was attended by Frances Hooks, the widow of Dr. Hooks, along with friends and colleagues of Dr. Hooks, including Bill Hollander, Managing Partner of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs, U.S. Congressman Steve Cohen and Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell.

Mr. Strong, who recently returned home after a tour of duty in Afghanistan, is a native Memphian and graduate of White Station High School and the United States Naval Academy. The scholarship was established in honor of the late Dr. Hooks, who was the head of Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs' diversity practice group until his death in 2010. Dr. Hooks, an icon in the Civil Rights Movement, also served as a judge, a minister, former executive director of the NAACP, and a former commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission.

"Dr. Hooks had an extraordinary career in law and public service and, as an attorney at Wyatt, he counseled some of the largest corporations in America," said Glen Reid, Partner-in-Charge of the firm's Memphis office. "We were honored to have him in our ranks for eight years and we're pleased to honor him with this scholarship."

The scholarship will be offered every three years to a full-time law student at the University of Memphis, with preference being given to a Memphian.

"We are grateful to Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs for its generosity in establishing the Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Scholarship in support of the University and the School of Law's diversity efforts," said Dr. Kevin H. Smith, law school dean and Thomas B. Preston Professor of Law. "It is important to our goal of achieving greater diversity in our classes."