

GSD Spotlight John Rouse

Grenada School District is pleased to recognize our outstanding alumni with a monthly feature outlining their successes. GSD's former students exemplify our commitment to excellence and are distinguishing themselves in the workplace and in their communities.

Our focus for this month spotlights the path of John Thomas Rouse, 1994 graduate. John is married to the former Lee Anne Hankins of Grenada, and has six children and one grandchild. John's parents, Robin and Bonnie, still live in Gore Springs.

John is a partner in the law firm, McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, in its Jackson, Mississippi, office. John practices in the firm's commercial litigation section and concentrates on business litigation, consumer finance litigation, and defense of products liability litigation in Mississippi and Tennessee state and federal courts. John is an experienced trial lawyer and handles cases involving nationwide banks, airlines, heavy equipment and truck manufacturers, and automotive and marine manufacturers.

An exemplary student in both the Grenada School District and in the university setting, John has a varied range of educational experiences. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in computer information systems from Delta State University and a Masters of Business in management information systems and marketing from the University of Mississippi before obtaining his law degree from Mississippi College School of Law.

His wide range of interests and expertise in several fields exemplifies his academic prowess and innate curiosity. Before entering the legal field, John briefly worked as a consultant for Accenture at International Paper in Memphis, Tennessee.

John's love of knowledge is exemplified in his suggestions for current Grenada students, "Never stop learning and meeting new people. You will be tested throughout your life, but a person's character is not measured by the struggles, but rather by how he handles those tough times and how high he excels thereafter. Work hard, but always stay humble."

His childhood and education in Grenada provided a solid foundation for John's collegiate education and present occupation. "Growing up outside of the city limits," John says, "I attended elementary school at Tie Plant. Back then, Tie Plant was not an alternative school, but a small elementary school where I had great teachers like Lewis Bridges and Becky Angle who taught me about the value of learning and competition among peers."

John learned his lessons at Tie Plant well, excelling in Law School, serving as Editor-in-Chief of the *Mississippi College Law Review*, and distinguishing himself in the workplace at McGlinchey Stafford PLLC. He has been designated as a *Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent* Peer Review Rated Lawyer and *Mid-South Super Lawyers* "Rising Star" (Business Litigation), 2012-2014. He

serves as an Adjunct Professor at Mississippi College and is on the Mississippi Board of Bar Admissions Character and Fitness Committee as well as the Mississippi Bar's Professionalism Committee. He has published in many professional venues such as the *Mississippi College Law Review*, the *Executive Council Magazine*, the *ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Business Litigation Committee Newsletter*, and *Consumer Financial Services Law Report*.

Education in the arts also fostered John's academic success. He states, "I even gained an appreciation for the arts in an advanced learning program called LEAP. Later, through my time in Grenada's band program, I learned self-discipline and the importance of hard work from Dr. Daigneault. My time with the Grenada Band garnered scholarships for my undergraduate career at Delta State."

Childhood in Grenada held friendships and life lessons. "I have lifelong friends from my childhood in Grenada," John says. "Charlie Whitfield, James Blaylock, and Chris Smith are always the first to come to mind. However, one of my great friends Cedric Porter, passed a few years back. Cedric and I were close as young elementary school students and throughout high school and beyond. Cedric and I taught each other that people are all the same no matter their skin color."

John's friendships and relationships in GSD provided John with a depth of



character and insights he wishes to share with Grenada students. He says, "I hope Grenada Schools continue to encourage young men and women to look beyond race to foster relationships."

John praises and encourages the GSD community by stating, "I am happy to see the Grenada School System doing well. I have had the opportunity to spend time at football games this year to see the team play and the band perform. These athletes and band members are the future leaders of Grenada and Mississippi and I applaud the community for their support of these young men and women."



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