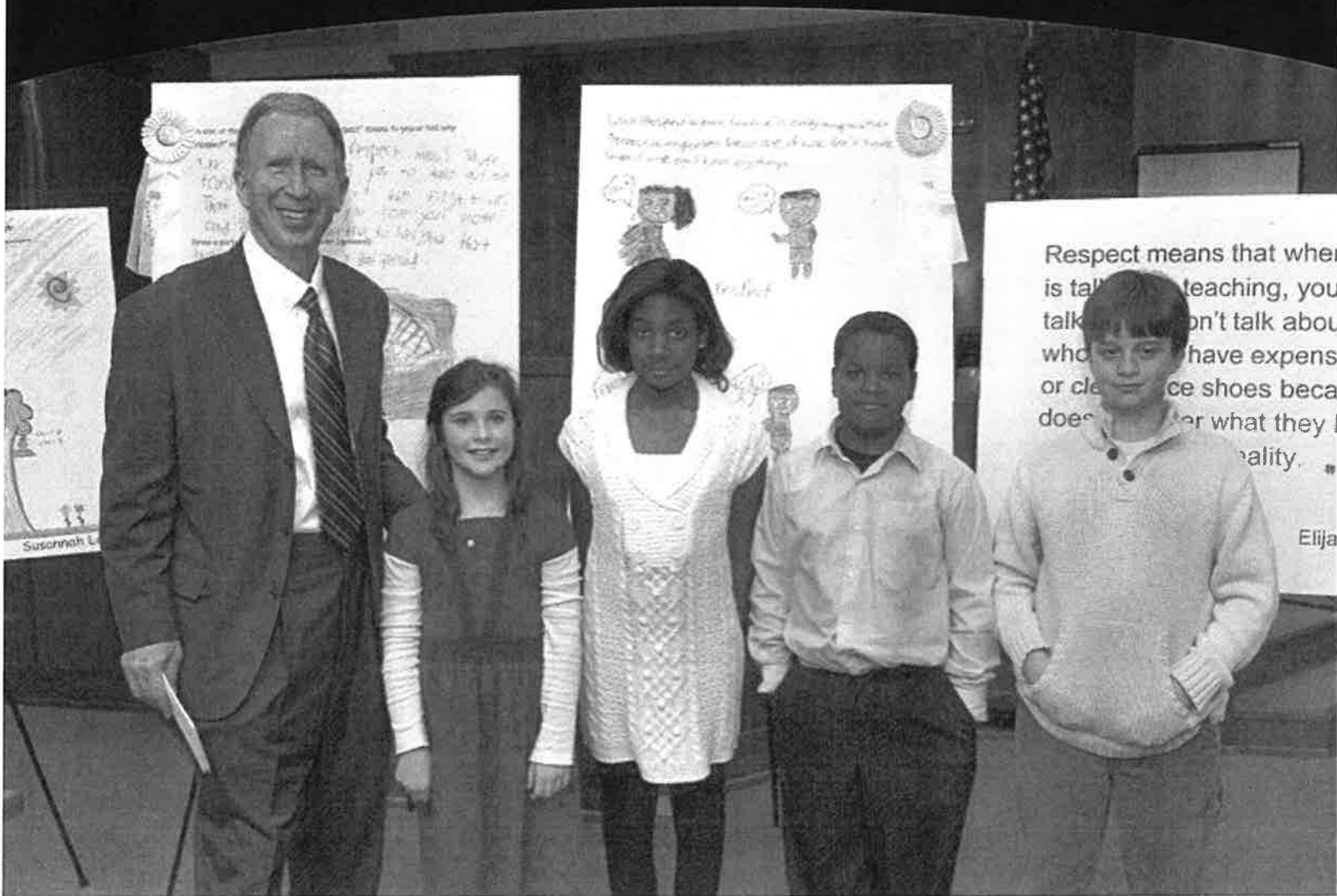


FIRM SPOTLIGHT: KINNARD LAW FIRM



By Tony Seaton

Randy Kinnard and the lawyers at Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge are committed to giving back to the community. However, over the course of his career, Randy Kinnard began to notice a problem within the legal community that needed just as much help and attention as other causes to which he devoted his time. He saw a disturbing trend: more and more lawyers respecting others less and less. So he frequently gives the speech entitled “R-E-S-P-E-C-T” to legal associations around the country. The speech emphasizes the need for lawyers to control anger and act more civilly towards one another, in and out of the courtroom. The responses to the speech are gratifying.

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Wanting to do more to spread awareness about the importance of respect, Randy thought, “What better place to start than with our children?” Those are the words that launched Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge’s inaugural RESPECT Contest in Davidson County schools in the fall of 2011.

After discussions about ways to get students talking about what being respectful means to them, the contest was put into motion by Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge. The team at Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge believes that this contest is an interesting way to encourage students to think about the impact that respect can have within their own lives. In the contest, fifth graders are asked to define “respect” and draw an illustration showing their point.

Since that inaugural contest, Kinnard, Clayton, & Beveridge has completed five contests for fifth graders. Thousands of entries from both public and private schools with original and imaginative answers and illustrations have poured in. Ceremonies for the top 3 winners of each contest have been held in local courtrooms, with cash prizes being awarded to the students, the students’ schools, and charities of the students’ choice. Each ceremony has been an inspiration to all of those in attendance.

The RESPECT contest is a highlight each year for the Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge team. It is a wonderful and energizing reminder that RESPECT is alive and thriving in the hearts and minds of 5th graders. Nonetheless, the lawyers in the firm – who in addition to Randy Kinnard include Daniel Clayton, Mark Beveridge, Mary Ellen Morris, and Jenney Keaty – continue to be dedicated to their personal causes.

Daniel Clayton has served on the Franklin Special School District Board of Education, has led mission teams to Mexico, Jamaica, and around the U.S. He is involved with the Williamson County Foster Parent Association. Along with his wife, they have fostered many children over the last 17 years.

Mark Beveridge is an appointed Judge of the Belle Meade City Court, has served as Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Planning Commission for the City of Belle Meade, has served on the Metro Nashville Domestic Violence Safety Task Force, and is an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church where he has been an elder, youth mentor, and Sunday school teacher.

Mary Ellen Morris is an active member of many organizations to include the Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women and the Nashville Bar Association, for which she serves on the Continuing Legal Education committee. In addition, she volunteers with her Alpha Delta Pi alumnae association.

Jenney Keaty is an active volunteer with The American Heart Association, CASA, and Family and Children’s Services. She is a former co-chair of Nashville’s oldest charity ball, the Bal d’Hiver, and has served on the Boards of the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, the Nashville Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, and the Lawyers Association for Women. Ms. Keaty also organized the Wills for Heroes program in Davidson County for several years, providing more than 450 first responders and their spouses with essential legal documents.

A Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Randy Kinnard currently serves on the board of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee and the Friends of Warner Park. He also volunteers for Alive Hospice and the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, and he has been a board member of Centerstone – a nonprofit that provides care for over 40,000 patients.

