

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY / SPRING 2017 / ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# CUMBERLAND LAWYER



**In memoriam,  
Albert P. Brewer,  
a civic leader**



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Dean  
**Henry C. Strickland III**

Director of Alumni Relations  
**Anne Marovich**

Coordinator of Marketing and Communication  
**Polly A. Manuel**

Senior Designer  
**Stephanie Sides**

Creative Services  
**Katie Stewart**

Director of Photographic Services  
**Caroline Summers**

Contributors  
**Jen Hartzog, Linda Connor, Pam Nelson, Dawn Carre, Kathy Walton, Laura Taylor, Whitney Dachelet, Howard P. Walthall, Leslie S. Wright Professor of Law, Anne Marovich, Polly A. Manuel**

We hope you find the publication interesting and helpful. If there are stories and topics you would like to see in future issues, please let us know. This is your publication, and we need your feedback. We welcome your feedback at [cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu](mailto:cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu).

## FROM THE DEAN



The year 2017 began for me with a strange combination of deep sadness and excitement. This issue of *Cumberland Lawyer* addresses the sources of both. The sadness came from our losing two of the Cumberland community's greatest. J. Anthony (Tony) McLain '77 passed away on January 1, and Governor Albert Brewer passed away on January 2. Both men were extraordinary lawyers and models of professionalism, civility, responsibility and service. They also loved Cumberland and served the school generously and tirelessly. This issue of *Cumberland Lawyer* recognizes their remarkable careers and accomplishments and their generous support of the law school.

The new year's excitement and optimism came from our pending launch of a comprehensive fundraising campaign for Cumberland. The campaign is part of Samford University's *Forever Samford* campaign, a six-year campaign with an ambitious total goal of \$300 million. This issue of *Cumberland Lawyer* announces the launch of Cumberland's portion of that campaign, the Campaign for Cumberland.

While the Great Recession created challenges, and wrought profound changes in the legal profession and American legal

education, Cumberland remains strong. It continues to fulfill its mission of equipping students to be highly competent, ethical lawyers committed to professionalism and service.

Maintaining that strength and fulfilling that mission in the 21st century, though, requires that we expand and build on traditional strengths. It requires that we update facilities to accommodate new technologies and new approaches to teaching, and to continue to attract highly qualified students. Perhaps most important, it requires that we expand scholarship support for students both to recruit highly qualified students and to avoid their graduating with excessive debt. The Campaign for Cumberland will thus seek to fund these priorities.

First, the campaign will seek major new endowment funding for student scholarships. In today's fiercely competitive law school market, many law schools offer substantial scholarships to promising students. When faced with major scholarship offers, even students who prefer to enroll at Cumberland must look carefully at other schools.

Cumberland thus needs to increase its endowed scholarship funds to continue enrolling the best future lawyers. Those scholarship funds will also help alleviate

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# “Maintaining that strength and fulfilling that mission in the 21st century, though, requires that we expand and build on traditional strengths.”

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sometimes oppressive student loan debt, enabling students to pursue sometimes lower paying public interest and service careers.

Second, the campaign will raise funds to update classrooms and key common areas in the law school. The classroom portion of Robinson Hall is forty years old, and other parts of the building are older. While some areas of the building have been renovated and updated from time to time, other areas—including the classrooms, hallways and lockers—have not. Cumberland needs to renovate the classrooms to provide flexibility, to accommodate new technology and varied approaches to teaching, and to provide appropriate workspace for students in class. We need to make these enhancements to make the law school building the most effective environment possible for learning. Since many competing law schools recently moved into entirely new buildings or completed new additions, we also need to update our facilities to continue recruiting outstanding students.

Third, to secure the status of Cumberland’s advocacy program as one of the country’s best, the campaign will secure major funding to support and strengthen the advocacy program, and to provide the program dedicated space in the law school. Cumberland’s trial advocacy program, made

famous by Judge James Haley and Herb Peterson and the students they coached, is a cornerstone of the school’s reputation and strength. In order to maintain its strength in the face of increasing competition, we need to provide secure funding for the program’s space, faculty, coaches, travel and other needs and that of Cumberland’s related advocacy programs.

Fourth, the campaign will seek endowed funding to support other important law school functions. We will seek funding to support and expand LLR (Lawyering and Legal Reasoning, Cumberland’s innovative first-year legal research and writing program that is a cornerstone of the curriculum). We will also seek endowed funds to support faculty research and the necessary travel to support that research. This research funding is essential to recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty and promoting the law school around the country.

Last, in addition to achieving those substantive goals, the campaign will seek to expand the participation of alumni and friends of Cumberland. We will do so by creating the Bishop Society. Membership in the Bishop Society will recognize and celebrate the annual participation and support of all alumni and friends of the law school, from recent graduates who will

make their first gift to Cumberland, beginning a lifelong spirit of philanthropy, to cornerstone supporters who provide major financial support every year. The Bishop Society will hold an annual dinner to celebrate the participation and support of all its members. An article describing the Bishop Society, its role, and membership in it appears on page 14.

I am proud of Cumberland’s rich history and I am excited about the law school’s future. The past and continued support of alumni and friends such as Tony McLain, Governor Brewer and Brad Bishop has been instrumental in helping Cumberland to attract outstanding students and produce exceptionally well-rounded and qualified alumni. I hope that you will consider supporting Cumberland in whatever capacity you are able, and helping us to continue our 170-year tradition of excellence for many years to come.



Dean Henry “Corky” Strickland III

# December 2016 Commencement

Degrees were conferred to 12 J.D. graduates as well as four M.C.L. graduates in December 2016. A commencement ceremony was held at Samford University's Pete Hanna Center on Saturday, December 16. The graduates and their families enjoyed a breakfast reception provided by Cumberland School of Law prior to the ceremony.



## December J.D. Graduates:

- Dylan Angeline
- Daniel Costa
- Darcy Townsend
- Evette Koehler
- LeKira Wright
- Kristen Schaeff
- Adam Shanks
- Katherine (Kate) Furek
- Matthew Neely
- Jana Rucker
- Kelly Masters
- Rosemary (Diana) Crotts

## December M.C.L. Graduates: (not pictured)

- Daniel Costa
- Daniela Murata
- Celso Neto
- Ana Oliveira



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



When I visit with alumni in different geographical areas, I enjoy hearing about their legal practices, non-traditional legal work or, if retired, former careers. The variety of legal professions, the level of expertise and the number of niche practices is significant. And, when a Cumberland lawyer continues on to describe his/her community service—I know the law school achieved its complete mission:

The mission of Cumberland School of Law is to educate a diverse community of students with knowledge and practical skills, equipping them to become highly competent, ethical lawyers committed to professionalism and public service.

In February, I visited with Lindsay Stengle '05 in Dallas, Texas. Stengle has a satisfying and lucrative legal recruiting career with Wegman Partners. In addition to her full-time professional role, Stengle described how much she enjoys serving her community with her college friend and law school classmate Erin (Mitchell) Pope '05. Pope serves as senior vice-president, chief compliance and privacy officer of Golden Living & Affiliates in Dallas. This dynamic duo began volunteering together while students at Baylor University and continue to this day. In fact, a unique opportunity with other attorneys in Dallas and the International Justice Mission sent them to India to provide legal seminars and training for attorneys just after starting their legal careers in Texas.

Since that time, their locally based community service work grew alongside their careers. Outside of business hours, both have impacted the lives of hundreds of less fortunate children. Pope has mentored inner-city youth for the past 11 years in addition to actively participating on auxiliary boards and several non-profit organizations, including the Junior League of Dallas, Mercy Street, New Friends New Life and Interfaith Housing Coalition. Stengle receives great joy volunteering with her beloved golden retriever named George. George became a certified therapy dog, and he and Lindsay visit seriously ill children at Children's Medical Center (in Dallas) on a weekly basis. The children can't wait to see him!

Together, Pope and Stengle actively lead fundraising efforts and a holiday gift drive to benefit the vulnerable children who Dallas CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) serves. These 2005 graduates exemplify the mission of Cumberland School of Law.

Please send me your story! I know there are many of you doing incredibly satisfying work in your area. We would like to share it with our Cumberland community, if we may. As always, if your contact information changes, please send it to me so we may update our records to ensure receipt of the monthly e-newsletter, *Cumberland Connections*, and *Cumberland Lawyer*.

Anne

Anne L. Marovich  
amarovic@samford.edu



# Annual Birmingham Alumni Luncheon

Cumberland School of Law hosted its annual Birmingham alumni luncheon on Friday, Jan. 20, in the Regions Room of Samford University's Cooney Hall, home to Brock School of Business. This year marked the second time the luncheon was held on campus, and it was again a great success. Local alumni, faculty, staff and third-year law students were invited. Attendees enjoyed a seated lunch and watched a video about Samford University's inaugural Humanitarian of the Year, Cumberland alumnus Stephen B. Moss '68. The guest speaker was Brian Hilson, president and CEO of the Birmingham Business Alliance.

# American Shakespeare Center's Hungry Hearts Tour Visits Cumberland

This February, the Birmingham law firm of Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff and Brandt LLC once again sponsored theatrical productions performed at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law by the American Shakespeare Center (ASC). This year's performances were part of the ASC's Hungry Hearts Tour. Performances included *Romeo and Juliet*, presented on Friday, Feb. 17, and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, presented on Saturday, Feb. 18.

This year marked the fourth year in a row that the ASC has transformed the law school's Great Room into an Elizabethan theatre for the weekend. Kim West, a practicing lawyer at Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff and Brandt and adjunct professor at the law school, was once again instrumental in organizing the performances. West teaches perhaps the world's only course on Shakespeare and the law, "Shakespeare and Trial Advocacy."

"I love this event for many reasons," said West. "It is deeply satisfying to me to see Shakespeare performed in a law school. Shakespeare ate, drank and argued hypotheticals with the lawyers at pubs around the Inns of Court and his nearby Blackfriars Theatre. Law students commissioned plays by Shakespeare for parties such

as *Twelfth Night*. I have an engraving of the Great Hall in Gray's Inn, where plays written by Shakespeare for law students were performed. The resemblance to our Great Room is uncanny."

Each performance began with 30 minutes of modern music that complemented the theme of the play. The *Romeo and Juliet* audience was entertained with "Why Can't We Be Friends?" and an original rap piece that included titles of Shakespeare's plays. The *Two Gentlemen of Verona* audience was treated to the tunes of "You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog" in honor of the rescue dog, Buddy, who played the role of Crab. The plays were presented in the manner of their original performance, including universal lighting, minimal sets, doubling and cross-gender casting. Audience members shared directly in the action on-stage as they became Verona in *Romeo and Juliet* and Milan in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

The events were free of charge for Cumberland School of Law alumni, friends of the law school, and Samford University and Cumberland faculty, staff, students and their guests. Maximum attendance was achieved at both performances.



1 Rory McKean '13, Cline Thompson '13 at the alumni luncheon

2 Judge Alan King '82, Anne Marovich, and Brian Hilson, president and CEO of the Birmingham Business Alliance

3 American Shakespeare Center entertains guests in the law school's Great Room



*Mentors Helped  
Shape His Career,*

Gray Tells 2016 Jere F. White Jr.  
Trial Advocacy Institute Attendees

**S**amford University's Cumberland School of Law and the Alabama Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers hosted the 2016 Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute on Nov. 11 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Bingham. The event attracted over 300 trial attorneys from around the country. The lineup of speakers featured a who's who of skilled litigators and judges who presented on a variety of trial skills-related topics and strategies.

Civil rights attorney, author and former elected official Fred D. Gray was the keynote speaker. Gray's many clients have included the Selma Marchers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, and he played a pivotal role in dismantling legal segregation in the state of Alabama. He spoke about his decision to become an attorney, his involvement in the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott that launched his legal career and the mentors who helped him along the way.

After attending a religious boarding school in Nashville for high school and returning to Montgomery to attend college, Gray became increasingly unsettled by segregation and the humiliation it was causing African Americans, particularly related to the bus system on which he relied for public transportation.

"Because of the bus situation and recognizing the injustices that accompanied segregation, I made a personal, secret commitment that I was going to finish college, go to law school, finish law school, take the Alabama Bar Exam, become a lawyer and destroy segregation entirely," explained Gray.

After graduating from Alabama State University and then Case Western Reserve University Law School in Cleveland, Ohio, Gray returned to Montgomery and set out as a solo practitioner. He soon met and was mentored by political activist Jo Anne Robinson and head of the local NAACP chapter E.D. Nixon.

When 15-year-old Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her bus seat

in March 1955, Gray was called to defend the teenager. Gray represented Colvin in a trial that lasted less than 20 minutes, and as expected, Colvin was found guilty of violating the segregation law and fined. At that point, Gray, Robinson and Nixon decided the bus system had to change, and that they would be prepared to do more than just dispose of the criminal aspect of it at the next opportunity.

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested for failing to give up her seat and provided the opportunity the trio had hoped for. Gray represented Parks, who, like Colvin, was easily convicted of violating the segregation law and fined. This time, Gray appealed the ruling.

Robinson led a successful effort to get the black community to stay off the buses the day of Parks' trial, and the movement grew from there.

"For the first time, you had 40,000 people working together to solve a problem," said Gray. "Since we had asked people to stay off of the buses for one day during the trial, we needed to keep them off until they could return on a non-segregated basis or until we got the issues resolved. Everyone understood what was at stake."

African-American leaders created the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) to run the bus protest and elected Martin Luther King Jr. as president. King gave many powerful speeches during the bus boycott that energized and motivated participants, and catapulted him into the national spotlight, Gray said.

Gray eventually filed a law suit in federal court calling for an end to segregated buses. The bus boycott that began with Rosa Parks' trial lasted 381 days and ended only when the U.S. Supreme Court agreed that the segregated bus system was unconstitutional in November 1956. It was the first of many civil rights cases that Gray would win in his career.

According to Gray, he would not have had the wisdom or courage to take on issues like bus segregation had it not been

for mentors such as Robinson and Nixon, who encouraged and helped him along the way.

"I encourage all of you to mentor young people," he said to the audience in closing. "Share your wisdom with them and help them, just as I was helped and many of you were helped. To the young people out there, don't be afraid to ask for help. You may not know much yet, but with help, you can accomplish great things."

The institute, which is held every two years, serves as the primary fundraising event for Cumberland School of Law's prestigious Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship.

## **Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship**

The fellowship, which includes a full-tuition scholarship, an annual stipend, tuition and lodging at the law school's Cambridge, England study abroad program, and various mentoring opportunities is awarded to one entering student per year who demonstrates exceptional academic ability, a history of leadership and a considerable commitment to service. The fellowship was established by White and his wife, Lyda, prior to his death in October 2011.

A graduate of the University of Georgia and Cumberland School of Law ('80), White was a founding member of Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC in Birmingham.

"Jere will be long recognized as one of the most outstanding lawyers in the country," Cumberland School of Law Dean Henry C. "Corky" Strickland III said. "More importantly, he will be remembered as a great person, friend and mentor. We are honored to be able to continue his legacy through the Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship, which helps to promote the development of lawyers who share ideals that were so important to him."

## Law Review Symposium Held at Local Brewing Company

On November 17, 2016, *Cumberland Law Review* hosted its 2016 symposium, "Alcohol in Alabama," at a venue other than the law school for the first time in recent history. Cahaba Brewing Company, located in downtown Birmingham, proved to be the perfect setting in which to host the symposium and was more than fitting for the topics covered, which included dram shop liability and DUI law, among others.

Attendees included local attorneys, law students and professionals involved in Alabama's alcohol industry. Lunch was served prior to the commencement of the program and an alumni reception took place following the program.

The lineup featured several distinguished speakers who shared about their experiences working with Alabama laws related to alcohol production, sale and consumption. Speakers included Judge T. Brad Bishop, a professor at Cumberland School of Law, Brett M. Bloomston of The Bloomston Firm, Melinda E. Sellers of Burr Forman, LLP, David A. Carn, general counsel at Back Forty Beer Company, Justin I. Hale, of White of Arnold, & Dowd, PC, LaBella S. Alvis of Christian & Small, LLP; and Mr. R. Jordan Wood of



Law students Lindsey Catlett and Laney Gifford

Christian & Small, LLP, among others.

As the afternoon's event drew to a close, *Cumberland Law Review's* editor-in-chief, Kyle Weaver, took the stage to thank all those who helped make the *Cumberland Law Review's* 2016 symposium such a success. He said he looks forward to *Cumberland Law Review's* continued tradition of hosting educational events regarding cutting edge legal issues that are of relevance to attorneys, students and business leaders in the Birmingham community.

## American Journal of Trial Advocacy HOSTS LEGAL TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

The 2017 *American Journal of Trial Advocacy* symposium, "Technological Tools for an Efficient Esquire," featured several speakers on the cutting edge of legal technology including keynote speaker Andrew Arruda, cofounder and CEO of ROSS Intelligence. The symposium took place on Jan. 27 in Cumberland School of Law's John L. Carroll Moot Courtroom.

Attendees were served breakfast prior to the commencement of the program, which led with opening remarks from Cumberland School of Law Dean Henry C. Strickland III and *American Journal of Trial Advocacy* Symposium and Articles Editor Lindsey Voelker. A panel discussion followed featuring several industry experts who discussed the topic, "Incorporating Legal Technology into Practice." Arruda then delivered the keynote address, "An Ethical Obligation to Use Artificial Intelligence? The

ABA Model Rules of Professional Responsibility and the use of AI in Law."

A legal technology vendor fair took place throughout the morning in the law school's Great Room. Attendees were able to attend the fair during a break in the programming. Following the break, attendees heard a presentation from Roe Frazer, cofounder and CEO of Cicayda, on the topic of "Technology and Marketing." The programming concluded with a question-and-answer panel discussion and closing remarks from Curtis Seal, editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*.

The event was open to the public, free of charge and offered three hours of continuing legal education credit, including one hour of ethics credit.

# THURGOOD MARSHALL

## Symposium Speaker Reflects on Civil Rights Progress

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*Judge Carlton W. Reeves*

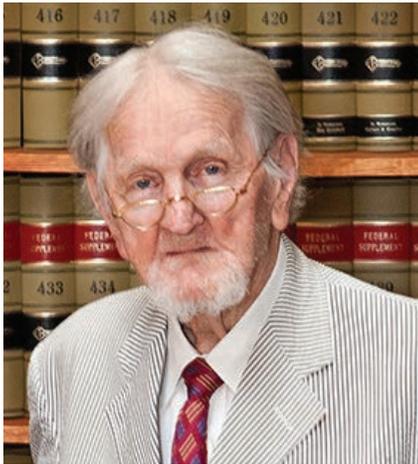
“**T**he Civil Rights Movement: 50 Years Later” was the topic of the 23rd annual Thurgood Marshall Symposium, which was held in the Great Room at Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law on Thursday, March 2. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Carlton W. Reeves, federal judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Judge Reeves clerked for the Honorable Reuben Anderson, the first African-American justice to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court, worked at the Jackson, Mississippi, office of Phelps Dunbar, served as assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Mississippi and founded the law firm Piggott Reeves Johnson. He also served on the board of the ACLU of Mississippi, the Mississippi Center for Justice and the Magnolia Bar Association. President Barack Obama nominated Judge Reeves for the Southern District of Mississippi on April 28, 2010, and the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment on December 19, 2010.

Judge Reeves delivered a powerful lesson on the rich history of our country’s years of segregation, and the legal community’s instrumental role in challenging racial disparities. He implored the audience—filled with judges, lawyers, students and members of the community—to use the nation’s past as a tool to foster inclusion and tolerance of all races, sexual orientations, religions and genders.

The event was open to the public and free of charge, and one hour of continuing legal education credit was offered.

The Thurgood Marshall Symposium is hosted by the Black Law Students Association at Cumberland School of Law. The purpose of the symposium is to provide students, attorneys and the public critical information about legal issues affecting minorities. The late Thurgood Marshall was the first African-American justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.



**Bobby Lee Cook Visits Campus as**

# Lawyer-in-Residence

Samford University's Cumberland School of Law welcomed renowned criminal defense attorney Bobby Lee Cook to campus as its 2016-17 lawyer-in-residence on Thursday, Nov. 10. Cook shared many of his experiences as a trial lawyer with Cumberland and Samford students, faculty and staff, as well as the Birmingham legal community and members of the American College of Trial Lawyers who were in town for the Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute on Friday, Nov. 11. Cook served as the keynote speaker at the inaugural institute in 2012.

A trial lawyer who has practiced for more than 65 years is bound to have plenty of great stories, and Cook certainly did not disappoint. He recounted his start as a litigator in the 1940s and how he has represented both rich and famous clients, as well as hapless hometown defendants. He regaled the audience with numerous stories, including the details of a more recent victory, of which he is particularly proud, that directly benefited hundreds of retired Georgia teachers. He represented the retirees who contended that the Teachers Retirement System incorrectly calculated their monthly retirement pay by using the wrong mortality tables. Cook recovered millions of dollars on behalf of the retired teachers, effectively reimbursing retirement funds upon which they were dependent.

Although Cook's law office was close to the Summerville, Georgia, farm where he grew up, his cases have taken him throughout the country and the world, including Germany, Vietnam and South Korea. He has tried thousands of cases, including more than 300 murder trials. In addition to being nationally recognized as a defense attorney, it is said that Cook was the inspiration for the

television character Matlock, and represented the client at the center of the best-selling book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

Cook closed by encouraging the young lawyers in the audience to improve the justice system by seeking opportunities to try cases in front of juries.

Cumberland School of Law's lawyer-in-residence program annually invites a distinguished graduate or friend of the law school to visit campus, speaking to classes related to his or her area of expertise. The program is an excellent opportunity to allow students to augment the traditional curriculum with the experiences of current practitioners.



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Professor Belle Stoddard '78, Bobby Lee Cook, Dean H.C. Strickland

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Professor T. Brad Bishop,  
Samford '61, Cumberland School of Law '71

## *Cumberland School of Law Proudly Launches Bishop Society*

Cumberland School of Law is proud to launch the Bishop Society, named for long-time professor and dean, Thomas Brad Bishop. Professor Bishop's generosity of spirit and dedication to the law school inspired the creation of a network of supporters who make annual contributions and help to advance the mission of the law school.

Professor Bishop has taught a variety of courses at the law school for more than 30 years and has been a beloved professor of countless students. He is an expert in the laws of contracts, drunk driving, shoplifting, and municipal court practice and procedure. He has chaired the Alabama Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Municipal Courts, has served as a municipal court judge for Homewood and Pelham and currently serves as a municipal court judge for Hoover.

Professor Bishop has also served as chief legal advisor to the governor of

Alabama. He has received numerous awards and honors including the Municipal Judges Association's Award of Justice (2002), the Alabama Bar Association's Award of Merit (1992), Cumberland's Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award (2005 and 2009), Cumberland's Distinguished Alumni Award (1994) and Samford's George Macon Teacher of the Year Award (1991).

Contributions made to the Bishop Society will provide scholarship support to deserving law students, provide public interest fellowships to deserving law students, upgrade technology and law school facilities, support the preparation and travel of Cumberland's trial and other teams, and support faculty research. Contributors to the Bishop Society will enjoy the immediate benefit of directly helping students at their alma mater, as their support alleviates financial burdens so that students can focus on their studies and on becoming leaders within the next

generation of legal professionals.

Contributors will also receive invitations to Cumberland networking events, a chance to stay connected with alumni throughout the country and globally, special recognition at Cumberland's Alumni Reunion Weekend and in *Cumberland Lawyer*, invitations to attend guest speaker events and colloquia, priority notification and the opportunity to attend select events at Samford's Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center, an invitation to attend the annual Bishop Society Gala, the Bishop Society membership packet and gifts, and an invitation to Bulldog Hospitality Suite prior to Samford football games.

Giving levels range broadly from the \$25 "Rascal Level," for contributors up to four years past their graduation date, to the \$5,000 and up "Bishop Trustees Level." A mail piece will be sent to alumni in the coming weeks with more information about the Bishop Society and opportunities to contribute.



## Stephen “Steve” P. Leara ’94

Steve Leara has been a member of the law firm of Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, LLC since 2000. His practice encompasses the areas of bankruptcy law, workout, contracts, business organizations, mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, trademarks and real estate. He received his Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Brown University and earned his Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law, graduating magna cum laude. He is licensed to practice law in the states of Alabama and Georgia. In 2001, the *Birmingham Business Journal* selected Leara as one of the “Top 40 Under 40” when recognizing outstanding young business leaders. He is a board member of the Mountain Brook Sports Corporation, an assistant scout master for Boy Scouts of America, Troup 320, and a board member of Holy Trinity/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Cathedral Foundation.

### **How long have you been an adjunct professor at Cumberland, and what classes have you taught?**

I have been teaching Mergers & Acquisitions at Cumberland since the spring of 1996—21 years.

### **With your busy schedule, why do you continue to teach?**

Actually, that is the same question my wife asks me every year! I just enjoy engaging with the next generation of lawyers and, hopefully, sparking the interests of those students who might have an interest in pursuing a legal career in transactional practice as opposed to litigation. In addition, I get the most recent case law updates and strategies from transactional attorneys and law professors across the country, so it helps to keep me current on the ever-changing areas of transactional law practice.

### **What is your method of teaching, and has it changed over the years?**

I try to mix Socratic analysis of case law with real-life examples of day-to-day transactional practice in order to give the students a sense of what we do, why we do it and how we represent clients, regardless of whether they are buyers or sellers; I also bring in two or three experts in various aspects of transactional work—accountants, investment bankers, business brokers, etc.—to be guest lecturers and provide insight as to what they do and what they expect from the attorneys in their roles as being the “team leader” for the transaction. I have found that this breaks up the monotony of listening to me all semester, and it gets the students more engaged in understanding our role as lawyers in various aspects of the transaction.

### **What advice do you offer to students about the start of their careers?**

I always tell each class that no matter what area of law they eventually pursue, they need to start off as generalists and be exposed to as many areas of the practice that they can; as they grow and gain more experience, they can narrow their focus and specialize, but being exposed to as many different areas of the law (as well as the lawyers who practice in those areas) will be invaluable to them as they mature in the practice and start to assume their roles as leaders in their fields, their firms and their communities. But most important of all, I try to impress on them that they need to be mindful of the fact that they need balance in their lives; they don’t need to focus too much on their careers to the detriment of their family lives and their faith—they don’t want to burn themselves out to only find themselves without friends, family or their faith to support them.



## Mark M. Hogewood

Mark Hogewood has been a member of the law firm of Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, LLC since 1997. His practice is primarily in the area of civil litigation with an emphasis on corporate and insurance defense, as well as insurance coverage litigation. He received his Bachelor of Arts in politics, cum laude, from Wake Forest University and his Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University School of Law. Hogewood is a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, the American Bar Association and the Defense Research Institute. He has served on the state bar's Task Force on Adult Literacy and is a frequent speaker at seminars related to insurance coverage. Hogewood is an elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church, was a member of the board of directors for Restoration Academy and is currently serving on the Vestavia Hills Board of Education.

### **How long have you been an adjunct professor at Cumberland, and what classes have you taught?**

I have taught Insurance Law since 2008—so nine years now.

### **With your busy schedule, why do you continue to teach?**

I love it! These last, almost ten, years of teaching have been a privilege. I enjoy the subject (as strange as that may sound since it involves delving into insurance policies) and think it is an important area of the law for law school students to study. I also look forward each year to the interaction with students as we discuss insurance concepts and the application of those concepts to the practice of law and representation of clients.

### **What is your method of teaching, and has it changed over the years?**

I think my teaching style has remained fairly consistent over the years. I typically lecture and encourage participation from students, but usually do not call on particular students to answer questions. My goal has been to make the class as practically applicable as possible so, hopefully, the class will be helpful to students no matter the practice area they choose after graduation.

### **What advice do you offer to students about the start of their careers?**

I try to emphasize perspective. First, the perspective that all of us have been gifted in certain ways and we can use our gifts to help our clients. Second, the perspective that, as necessary as our work is, we are not defined by it; instead, in my opinion, we should be centered on more important aspects of our lives than just our jobs as lawyers.

# *What Was To Be*

When remembering Governor and Professor Albert Brewer, one's mind goes of course to the 1970 gubernatorial election. As it does, naturally the words of John Greenleaf Whittier come to mind:

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“Of all the words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these:  
*It might have been.*”

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By Howard P. Walthall  
Leslie S. Wright Professor of Law





Certainly, one of the great “what might have been” of Alabama history—and indeed of American history—is this: What if in 1970 Albert Brewer had defeated George Wallace and had been re-elected as Alabama’s governor?

Already, in the preceding two years in which Albert Brewer had served as governor following the death of Governor Lurleen Wallace, he had established an impressive record of reform leadership in education funding and in establishing standards of ethics for public officials. He had also initiated the process of state constitutional reform through the Commission process, a process in which he would continue to be personally involved for the rest of his life.

If in 1970 Governor Brewer had been re-elected to a full four-year term, undoubtedly his leadership in these and other areas would have continued, resulting in Alabama becoming a true “New South” state. And, who knows, perhaps like other New South governors, higher, national office might have awaited Governor Brewer.

Unfortunately, it was not to be. In the gubernatorial primary of May 1970, while Brewer gained the highest vote total in the initial

round of the primary, he fell short of an absolute majority. The result was a runoff—a highly divisive, racially charged election in which Albert Brewer, a moderate, came in second.

And so it was that in January 1971, he left the governorship and, after one more electoral try for the governorship in 1978, returned permanently to private life.

But it is here, at the moment of that transition, that Whitman’s words require amending and paraphrasing to read, “Oh, what was to be.”

For even as Albert Brewer left the world of electoral politics, he found what was perhaps his true calling: that of educator and civic leader. No institution was a greater beneficiary of the work of Albert Brewer in that calling than Samford University and Cumberland School of Law, but in a larger sense the entire community and the state of Alabama was the beneficiary.

In 1987, Governor Brewer accepted an appointment as distinguished professor of law and government at Samford, teaching generations of students both in the undergraduate school and in Samford’s Cumberland School of Law. The plaza and fountain area in front of the law school is named for Albert and his beloved



wife, Martha.

Governor Brewer also shared his leadership gifts with Samford. He helped to found at Samford the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA), devoted to research on state and local government best practices. He also served as a member of Samford's board of trustees.

There was about Governor Brewer an aura of prudence and wisdom so that, in any gathering of distinguished individuals charged with any serious responsibility, the first thought was "Let's see if Albert will do it." So, it was that upon the pending retirement of his long-time friend, Samford President Thomas E. Corts, it was Albert who was asked to lead the search that ultimately led to the selection of Samford's current president (and friend of the law school—he leads the Rascal Day procession after all) Andy Westmoreland.

One issue that never failed to win Governor Brewer's active and energetic support was reform of Alabama's antiquated state constitution. During the period in which he served as governor, he initiated a Constitutional Revision Commission to revise Alabama's Commission. Under new leadership, that Commission continued

even after Governor Brewer left the governorship. Much good grew out of that effort, including (of special significance to attorneys) a new Judicial Article. As a law professor here at Cumberland he worked with fellow Cumberland law professor Charles Cole '66 to author a case book on Alabama Constitutional Law. Indeed, throughout his life Governor Brewer continued to provide leadership to the various constitutional revision commissions that continued, and still continue, to labor onward in the cause of Alabama Constitutional Reform.

I will end with a personal note. A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to talk with a group of Samford undergraduates about Governor Brewer. Afterwards one of them, a young lady, came up and said, "You know, I am a Brewer Scholarship recipient. Without the help from that scholarship, I probably could not have attended Samford."

And so Governor Brewer's legacy continues. Yes, what might have been is sad to consider. But what was to come, especially in Governor Brewer's contributions to Cumberland and Samford, is wonderful in and of itself.



**D**reams really do come true. Just ask Laura Lundy Wheale. In addition to engaging in a successful career as a mass tort litigator with the law firm of Childers, Schlueter and Smith, LLC in Atlanta, Wheale is also pursuing an increasingly successful career as an actress—the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.

Recently, Wheale got the attention of Oscar-winning director Ang Lee due to her acting abilities and perfect Southern accent. She played Patty Lynn, the older sister of Kristen Stewart, in Lee's recent movie, *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*. You also recently saw her in the movie *Sully*, where she played a reporter.

Wheale was born in Birmingham but grew up in the small town of Cedartown, Georgia. She caught the "acting bug" at age 11 after taking classes at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. That experience

led her to study theatre at Jacksonville State University, where she was the lead in three theatre productions: *Eurydice*, *Sylvia* and *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. After earning her undergraduate degree, Wheale earned her Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law, and soon thereafter began her legal career.

Although she has continued to practice law full time, Wheale never lost the "acting bug." Her first film role was a colead role in the feature film *A Larger Life*, costarring Fred Thompson. As mentioned above, she has landed roles in two recent films since that time, and she continues to audition. She hopes to keep both careers in Atlanta, where she resides with her husband and fellow attorney, Patrick (also a Cumberland graduate from 2013), and their two dogs.

Laura inherited her love of the law and the arts from her father, William (Bill) J. Lundy Jr. '85. Bill Lundy and his wife, Laura's mother, Catharine, founded Cedartown Theatrical Performers Company LLC, a children's theatre company in Georgia. Bill also wrote, produced and directed the feature film, *A Larger Life*, based on his trial experiences. The film may be viewed on the UP Faith and Family network or on Amazon Prime. It was released in 2015. Bill's law partner and brother, Laura's uncle, is also a Cumberland graduate. Richard (Rick) J. Lundy graduated in 1987.

# Q & A

## Laura Lundy Wheale '13

### **How do you find the time to pursue your passion for acting while maintaining a successful career as a litigator?**

To me, it is not work to pursue both because I love what I do. Ultimately, however, the only way I'm able to manage both is because of other people's support. My family, bosses and coworkers all have been extremely supportive throughout this process, and there is no way I could do it without them.

### **Has your background in theatre helped you to succeed in law school and in your legal career?**

It's funny, when I got to law school and people heard I did theatre, I was always being asked to be a witness in mock trial! I believe theatre has helped me to succeed in life, which encompasses law school and my legal career. Theatre is such a collaborative effort by all who are involved. You learn to work on a team where all are working for the same vision/goal.

### **Which role has been your favorite thus far in your acting career, and why?**

This is a tough one because I think each role has brought something different to the table. For theatre, I would say Eurydice in *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl. It is a beautiful modern adaption of a Greek story and was the last play I did at Jacksonville State University. For film, I would say Patty Lynn in *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*. On this film, I got to work with one of the greatest directors of all time, Ang Lee, and be a part of a movie that was making cinematic history by how it was filmed. I also connected to the character because of the similarities between myself and the character.

### **What advice would you give law students and fellow attorneys about balancing passion and career, or blending the two?**

It is very easy to let work be all consuming and become very one-dimensional. For me, I can't be one-dimensional. My passions help to benefit each other. My advice would be to make time. I know that is easier said than done at times, but it is the best piece of advice. For my first two years of law school, I didn't act at all. I was letting time slip by me and making excuses why I didn't have time. Then, the summer before my third year, it just completely hit me how much I missed acting. More importantly, I didn't know how two years had passed without it in my life. I made a point to say that I would not let that happen again. Now, if I find myself becoming one-dimensional, I just remind myself that that is not what benefits me most. I also believe that one way to balance is by surrounding yourself with those who understand you.

### **Where do you see yourself ideally in ten years?**

Ideally, I would be acting most of the time and practicing law the other time. I never want to give up law, if I can help it. At the same time, acting is a dream of mine, and I hope it works out as my career. I also would like to utilize my law degree in the production realm and produce a movie or two. I believe my law degree would be extremely helpful in that scenario and is something I'm interested in pursuing.



# Remembering

## J. Anthony "Tony" McLain '77

**L**ong-time Alabama State Bar General Counsel Tony McLain passed away on Sunday, Jan. 1 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. He will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by many—including his Cumberland School of Law family.

A 1977 Cumberland graduate, McLain served as president of the law school's National Alumni Association, served on the law school advisory board and was the 2007 recipient of the law school's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award.

Early in his career, McLain served as an assistant attorney general during the administrations of Attorneys General Bill Baxley and Charlie Graddick. He then practiced law in the firm of McLain & Hampton for nine years before joining the state bar in 1988 as assistant general counsel. He was named general counsel of the state bar in 1995.

McLain was widely known as an expert in legal ethics and conducted numerous continuing legal education seminars on the subject. In 2014, the state bar awarded McLain with the Alabama State Bar Professionalism Award, which would be further known as the J. Anthony "Tony" McLain Professionalism Award.

"Tony McClain was the personification of ethics," said J. Mark White '74, shareholder at White, Arnold and Dowd, P.C., and close

friend of McLain. "Not only was Tony the leading expert on the subject, he was also the best personal and professional example of what our profession should aspire to achieve," he continued.

According to White, in addition to being passionate about his profession, McLain was also passionate about his friends and family—particularly his beloved wife, Leah.

"My heart is heavy over the loss of my 'Brother at the Bar,' but all of our lives are richer because of his leadership and friendship," said White. Alabama State Bar President Cole Portis echoed White's sentiments.

"Tony was an encourager," said Portis. "He possessed wisdom and he was a servant leader. These three traits are vital when one holds the position of general counsel for the Alabama State Bar. I think his most important trait, though, was his ability as the prosecutor to show compassion even when discipline was being leveled against an attorney."

***To honor Tony's legacy, the Cumberland Class of 1977 initiated, with blessing from Leah McLain, an endowed speakers series focusing on ethics and professionalism, in Tony's name. For more information, you may ask Paula Kierce at [pkierce@samford.edu](mailto:pkierce@samford.edu) or 205-726-2444.***

# Young Attorneys Experience Success *with Tech Startup*

After graduating from Cumberland School of Law in July 2016, Walker Beauchamp decided to forego pursuing a traditional legal career and instead did something that some might consider a little crazy: he joined his friend and fellow attorney, Jack West, to launch a tech startup, Book-It-Legal (bookitlegal.com).

The brainchild of West, Book-It-Legal brings the on-demand economy to the traditional clerkship model. West also has a connection to Cumberland, as he is the son of long-time Cumberland School of Law adjunct professor Kimberly R. West. According to West, the website allows lawyers and law students to collaborate on real legal work on a per-project, as-needed basis. A lawyer who needs help with a research question or other task can post a project on the website and student users can apply for projects that suit their interests and schedules. A lawyer can hire his/her favorite candidate and the two can securely exchange documents and messages back and forth through the website.

"We got some great advice along the way from T. Roe Frazer '85 (Cumberland's biggest tech company founder)," said Beauchamp. "He became a legal tech entrepreneur almost by accident, but had lots of knowledge to impart and we learned a lot from him."

As it turns out, Beauchamp's decision wasn't so crazy after all, as he and West won \$50,000 for Book-It-Legal in a competition sponsored by Alabama Launchpad in December 2016. Developed as an Economic Development Partnership of Alabama pilot program in 2006, Alabama Launchpad has invested some \$2.5 million in more than 50 new or burgeoning Alabama companies and entrepreneurs. Last year, Alabama Launchpad awarded \$645,300 to companies in three startup competitions. Companies that participated in Alabama Launchpad received \$24 million in follow-up funding and went on to create hundreds of jobs.

Minutes before stepping on stage to receive their check from Alabama Launchpad, Beauchamp and West were informed that they were also recently named part of the Innovation Depot's Velocity Accelerator program inaugural class, which included entrepreneurs from all over the world. The 12-week program was a brief but intense "boot camp" that ran from Jan. 18 to April 11. The program provided \$50,000 in seed funding for each company from a multimillion-dollar Velocity Accelerator Fund. Additionally, the companies received another \$800,000 in perks and tools from



Walker Beauchamp '16 and Jack West

Innovation Depot connections.

"During the course of the Velocity program, we've moved from beta to full release and are opening up the platform to more attorneys and more students," said West. "We're using the Launchpad and Velocity funding to (1) continue to improve the site and build new features that attorneys have requested (like the ability to post a project semi-anonymously) and (2) to begin marketing our service. Over the next six months we plan to begin opening up the platform to more students (only law review students have been eligible to participate in the beta). Our goal is to build a nationwide community of students and lawyers over the next 18 months."

Although Beauchamp recently accepted a job offer working in-house at a construction supply company and will no longer be officially affiliated with Book-It-Legal, he says it was a tough decision because West is still going full steam ahead and he believes the company is poised for big things.

"I'm still very much an ambassador for the company and can't wait to watch it grow and succeed," said Beauchamp. "I'm excited to be able to keep a foot in both the legal and business worlds, because I cultivated a new interest and appreciation for business through working on Book-It-Legal. I can tell you that I loved the experience of getting immersed in Birmingham's burgeoning tech/start-up scene, where everyone was incredibly accommodating and generous with their time and assistance."

*Cumberland School of Law, American Journal of Trial Advocacy board members: William S. Pylant, Kevin W. Bufford, Curtis H. Seal, Nicolas A. Gutierrez, Zachary M. Evans, Kylee J. Berger, Haley A. Stencel and Lindsey Voelker*



## Update on Cumberland's Scholarly Law Journals

The *AJTA* was founded in 1977 and is the nation's oldest law review dedicated to the art of trial advocacy. It has earned a national reputation for providing the legal profession with scholarly articles that are useful in the daily practice of law. The *AJTA* has a long tradition of publishing three books every year—in the fall, spring and summer—which are also available on WestLaw and LexisNexis.

Volume 40, Edition 1 is currently available in print and features articles about jury trials in antitrust cases, an analysis of cyberstalking cases, law enforcement's use of social media accounts during investigations and arguments to support or aver federal jurisdiction in the wake of a 2016 Supreme Court decision. Volume 40, Edition 2 is expected to be available in print in late spring and will feature an article by Cumberland Professor Jill Evans. Volume 40, Edition 3 will feature articles from the *AJTA*'s symposium: "Technological Tools for an Efficient Esquire."

Since its launch in January 2016, the *AJTA*'s website, [cumberlandtrialjournal.com](http://cumberlandtrialjournal.com), has seen increasing traffic from month-to-month. The membership continues to grow as the *AJTA* covers some of the most potentially impactful legal news through various short articles and blog posts that are placed on the website.

The *Cumberland Law Review* was founded in 1970 and publishes two print volumes annually. The same are available on WestLaw, LexisNexis and from Hein.

In Volume 47, Issue 1, the *Cumberland Law Review* featured articles on Harper Lee's novels: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Go Set a Watchman*. The first issue is currently available in print. In Volume 47, Issue 2, the *Cumberland Law Review* is publishing articles about mediation in public policy, medical records in Alabama, a piece on Alabama evidence, surveys of recent noteworthy Alabama cases, student commentary on various aspects of the ACA and a piece by Cumberland Professor Herman (Rusty) Johnson on state judges. The second issue of Volume 47 is expected to be available in print in June 2017.

The *Cumberland Law Review* has recently turned its focus to featuring developments in regional and national jurisprudence on its website: [cumberlandlawreview.com](http://cumberlandlawreview.com). There, *Cumberland Law Review* editors, professors and other contributors post brief updates that would otherwise "spoil" while waiting for print publication.

In addition to publishing, in November 2016, the *Cumberland Law Review* hosted a successful CLE event entitled "Alcohol in Alabama." The event was held at Cahaba Brewing Company in Birmingham, and featured speakers on DUI, alcohol regulation and dram shop liability. The event was well attended and considered by the *Cumberland Law Review* to be a great success.

*For more information, please visit: [cumberlandlawreview.com](http://cumberlandlawreview.com) and [cumberlandtrialjournal.com](http://cumberlandtrialjournal.com)*

# PROJECT *Homeless Connect*



Over 60 agencies participated in this year's 10th annual Project Homeless Connect event, which was held in Boutwell Auditorium on March 4, including the city of Birmingham, the United Way of Central Alabama, Hands On Birmingham and the Birmingham Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program. The annual day of service was established to break down the barriers to safe, decent, affordable housing for the homeless population in the greater Birmingham area. Homeless clients were provided with immediate access to services such as medical and dental care, grooming services, housing assistance, state IDs and legal aid at no cost. Around 650 homeless clients were assisted throughout the day by over 1,000 volunteers, including over 100 volunteer attorneys,

judges and law students from Cumberland School of Law, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law and the University of Alabama School of Law.

"Project Homeless Connect is a great way for our students to get practical experience with those in need," said Cassandra W. Adams, assistant dean of Cumberland School of Law's Public Interest Program and director of their Community Mediation Center. "They work alongside judges and lawyers that have volunteered their time to assist with the legal issues presented. This is an example of practicing law in the spirit of the Alabama State Bar motto 'Lawyers Render Service.'"

# COMPETITION SUCCESS

## *Preparation for Practice*

### November 2016

A team of predominantly second-year Cumberland students competed and succeeded by taking third place in the **National Trial Advocacy Competition** from Nov. 4-6 in Lansing, Michigan. The competition, hosted by Michigan State School of Law and the Michigan Young Lawyers Association, consisted of 12 schools from prestigious programs around the country. Cumberland's team included students Kingsley Okpara, Amanda Wineman, Keith Stephens, Austin Evans and Charlie Hearn. The team was coached by Ross Massey '11 and Setara Foster '12. Despite Cumberland's youth, the team advanced to the semi-finals prior to being eliminated by eventual champion Houston School of Law.

Cumberland teams excelled in the **American Bar Association Region Six Negotiation Competition** the weekend of Nov. 12-13 and once again advanced to the regional final. Cumberland's teams included Kevin Bufford, Jacey Mann, Aaron Pannell and Alex Parish. The teams were coached by Brian Turner '95 and April Jackson MacLennan '14. The schools in Cumberland's region included several schools with very well-known Alternative Dispute Resolution programs. Cumberland competed directly against teams from IIT Chicago Kent College of Law, Michigan State and Northern Illinois on Saturday, and on Sunday went against teams from Northern Illinois and Marquette in the finals. Bufford and Mann won the competition and Pannell and Parish came in third. Bufford and Mann went on to compete in the national finals in Chicago.

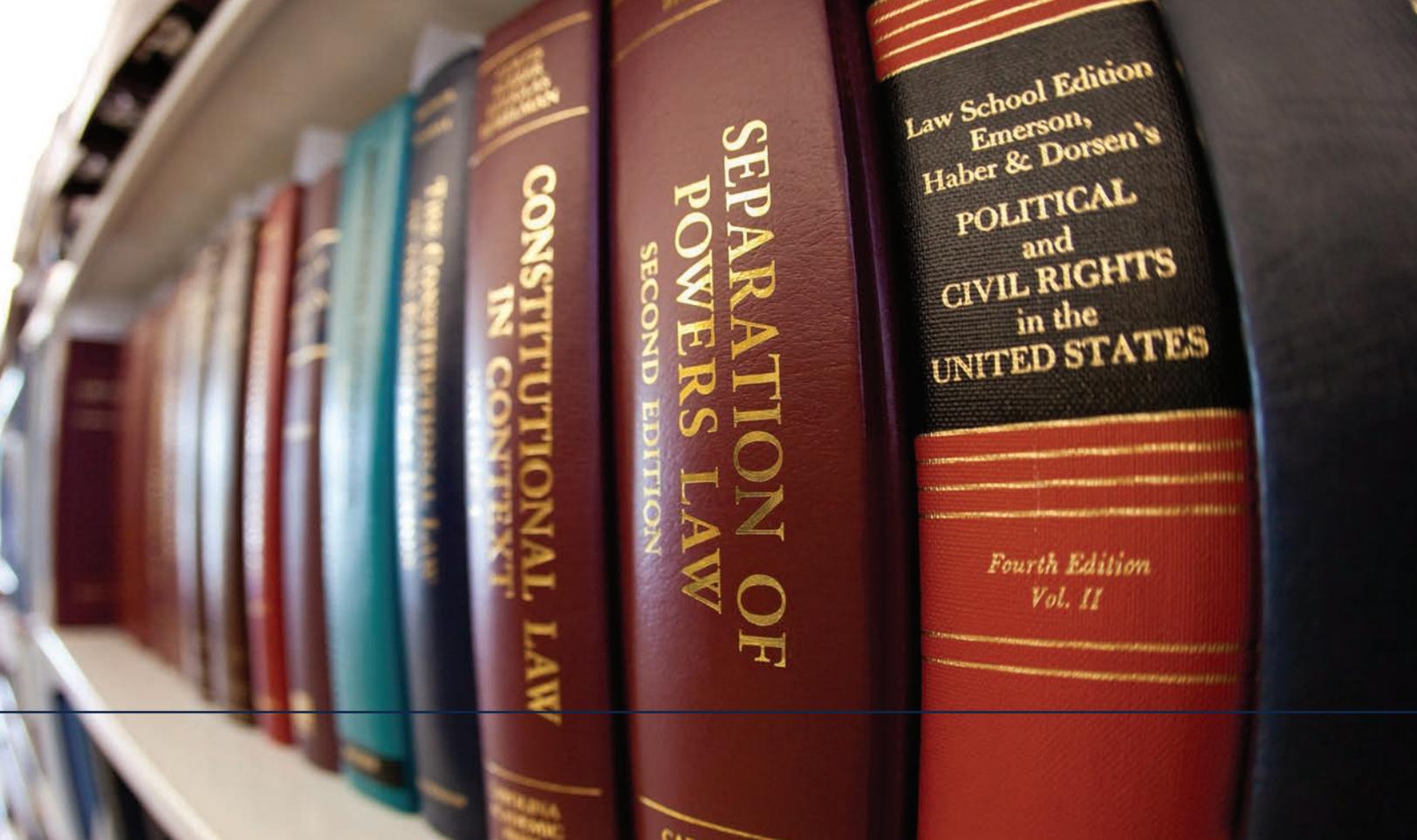
Cumberland students Kate Furek, Andrew Clay and Sidney

Jackson represented the law school at the **New York Bar Region VII Moot Court Competition** hosted by Loyola Law School the weekend of Nov. 26-27. They won each of their preliminary rounds and advanced to the semi-finals, where they just missed making the finals after a close loss to the tournament's top seed Mississippi College. The team was coached by Clay Adams.

### February 2017

A team from Cumberland made the final round of the **National Trial Competition Regional Tournament** the weekend of Feb. 4-5. The team of Curtis Seal and Bianca Svensson beat teams from St. Thomas University School of Law, the University of Florida Levin College of Law, the University of Alabama School of Law and Faulkner University's Jones School of Law on the way to the Final Round. Seal and Svensson lost a close, hard-fought final round by one vote against the host school, Stetson University School of Law, narrowly missing becoming the tenth Cumberland team to advance to nationals in the past nine years. Drew Bentley and Keith Stephens served as witnesses for the team. The team of Drew Panella, Kingsley Okpara and Amanda Wineman also participated in the competition. Kingsley Okpara won the best opening statement for the preliminary rounds. Ben Keen served as the witness for this team. Both teams were coached by Judge Jim Roberts, Sara Williams, Ross Massey and Jeremy Hazleton.

For the second year in a row, a team from Cumberland advanced to the **National Finals of the American Bar Association**



**Law Student Division Negotiation Competition.** The competition took place Feb. 3-4 in Chicago at the American Bar Association Headquarters. Cumberland was represented by Kevin Bufford and Jacey Mann, who went up against teams from the University of Houston and the University of Georgia in the preliminary rounds and advanced to the semi-final round, where they faced competition from Western New England School of Law and prevailed. The team was coached by Brian Turner '95, with assistance from April MacLennan '14 and Rachel Cobble '16.

Cumberland's Duberstein Moot Court Team participated in the **Cristol, Kahn, Paskay (CKP) Cup** in Miami the weekend of Feb. 18-19. The CKP Cup is a formal practice competition between the participating schools in the Eleventh Circuit hosted by the University of Miami School of Law. It is a precursor competition to the Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition, which is held in March. The Cumberland team made it all the way to the finals and came in second overall.

Cumberland participated in the regionals for the **ABA National Moot Court Competition** in San Francisco, California the weekend of Feb. 18-19. The team consisted of students David Manush, Zach Mardis and Gage Smyth. After three rounds, Cumberland was 3-0 and the overall #5 seed out of 32 teams from all over the country. The team advanced to the semi-finals, and despite an outstanding argument, fell in a close 2-2 split decision. Manush and Mardis were among the top ten advocates in the entire competition. The team was coached by Charlie Shah '94.

## March 2017

The weekend of March 4-5, two Cumberland teams competed in the **ABA Regional Mediation Competition** at Regent University School of Law in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The teams, including students Miranda Taylor, Ryan Hawks, Ransie Hare and Scott Woodard, along with 10 other teams from Virginia and Florida law schools, competed in the two-day regional competition, with the winner of the competition advancing to the national competition being held in San Francisco, California. Hawks and Woodard finished with a total of five of six ballots, resulting in third place out of 12. Taylor and Hawks finished with six out of six ballots, placing second out of 12, and thereby advancing to the final round being held on Sunday morning. During the final round on Sunday morning, Taylor and Hawks competed against two students from University of Richmond School of Law. After an effective and productive mediation, and in a close call, they finished second, claiming one of the three ballots. The teams were coached by Krista Cowley and Virginia Miller.

The weekend of March 4-5, the Cumberland team of Taylor Akers, Adam Hoekenschnieder and Evan Smith advanced to the quarter-finals as the sixth seed overall of the **Gabrielli Family Law Competition** in Albany, New York, which is a national event open to 24 teams that involves written and oral advocacy skills. The team was coached by Anne Lamkin Durward.



## The Campaign for Cumberland

*Forever Samford* is a six-year, \$300-million dollar capital campaign. It is the largest undertaking of its kind in Samford's 175-year history. Cumberland School of Law's portion of the campaign, *The Campaign for Cumberland*, will encompass the following goals:

### Endowed Student Scholarship Funds

#### **Desired Impact:**

- Recruiting: Increased endowed scholarship funds will help attract stronger students with higher entering credentials.
- Retention: Increased endowed scholarship funds will help Cumberland retain highly successful students, thereby enhancing the upper-level law school experience for all students and improving Cumberland's bar exam passage and employment rates.
- Reduction in Student Debt: Increased endowed scholarship funds will enable students to graduate with less student debt. Students consequently will have more freedom to choose jobs on the basis of factors other than salary and to choose sometimes lower paying public interest and service careers.
- Rankings: Enrolling entering students with higher LSAT scores and undergraduate GPAs will improve Cumberland's standing in national rankings.

“Renovating Cumberland’s aging classrooms will enhance the school’s academic program by making the rooms more flexible to accommodate different and innovative teaching approaches and to accommodate experiential skills classes. Renovations will also provide better and more usable student work space and make the space more accessible. Since we compete for students with other schools in the Southeast that have recently moved into new buildings and additions, renovations to classrooms and common areas will also help recruit and retain top students.”

*Cumberland School of Law Dean Henry “Corky” Strickland III*

### Capital Improvements (Improvements to Robinson Hall)

#### Desired Impact:

- Enhanced Classroom Experience and Learning: Renovating and reconfiguring classrooms will facilitate greater use of varied teaching approaches (including group work and simulations).
- Recruiting: Modern, inviting facilities will help attract stronger students with higher entering credentials.
- Rankings: By enhancing the recruitment of students with higher entering credentials, modern and inviting facilities will help to improve Cumberland’s national ranking.

### Advocacy Center

#### Desired Impact:

- Enhanced Learning and Professional Preparation: Funds to secure and expand trial and other advocacy instruction, coaching and practice will improve graduates’ ability to excel in law practice early in their careers.
- Recruiting: A visible advocacy program that maintains national success will help attract more prospective students and students with higher entering credentials.
- Retention: Since students who are engaged in the advocacy program are more likely to stay at Cumberland and graduate, a stronger and expanded program will enhance that retention.
- Rankings: The advocacy program is already important to Cumberland’s position in national rankings, and making the program more visible and stronger will significantly improve Cumberland’s standing in national rankings.

There are many ways for you to support The Campaign for Cumberland, from traditional cash gifts or charitable bequests to giving of your time and talent. Your contribution makes a difference.

Please go to [samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/giving](https://samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/giving) or contact Paula Kierce, director of development, to learn more about how you can be a part of this historic campaign.

**Paula K. Kierce, M.B.A.** ▪ Director of Development  
[pkierce@samford.edu](mailto:pkierce@samford.edu) ▪ 205-726-4542

## Cassandra Adams

In December, Adams was the opening plenary speaker at the 2016 Fulbright Scholar Regional Seminar, held in Montgomery, Alabama. Her topic, "Visions of the New South Realized," was well received by the group of more than 80 Fulbright Scholars studying in the U.S. from all over the world.

At its meeting on Friday, Jan. 20, the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners approved Cassandra Adams to fill the vacancy on the Legal Services Board of Directors, replacing Beth Marietta Lyons. Adams was recognized as a member of the 2017 class of the Fellows of the Alabama Law Foundation at a Fellows dinner on Jan. 28, 2017.

## John L. Carroll '74

In September, Carroll was one of the facilitators at the American Inns of Court Advocacy Training Course in Philadelphia. The students in the course are young lawyers from across the country, and the facilitators are lawyers from the United States and English Barristers from the Inns of Court College of Advocacy in England. The mock case was tried in the International Criminal Court and the facilitators used the Hampel Method of Advocacy Training which is the method in use in England. Carroll was in Washington, D.C., in October at a meeting of the Uniform Law Commission. He is a member of a drafting committee which is drafting a Model Veteran's Court Act for use by state and local courts.

Carroll was in Atlanta the week of Oct. 24 attending a meeting of the electronic discovery working group of the Sedona Conference, one of the country's leading complex litigation think tanks. Carroll is also a member of the board of directors of the Sedona Conference.

## Michael DeBow

DeBow gave a talk on teaching "public policy" at the Johnson Center for Political Economy, Troy University, on Oct. 7. DeBow also attended the "Free Market Forum" sponsored by Hillsdale College and the Acton Institute in Atlanta from Oct. 13-15.

## Brannon Denning

In September, Denning participated in the Constitution Day program at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio. Along with Professor Jonathan Adler from Case Western's law school, he discussed the issue of "Marijuana Legalization and Federalism" with student panelists and the audience in attendance.

## Alyssa DiRusso

DiRusso presented her work on using the MPT to assess learning gains in the panel on "Teaching the Knowledge, Skills, and Values of Trusts and Estates in the Age of Assessment" at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools. The presentation was August 6 in Amelia Island, Florida. DiRusso presented as part of the Trusts and Estates panel at the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in San Francisco on Jan. 5. Her presentation was based on her recent publication, "The Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax and Sociological Shifts in Generational Length: Proposing a Generation-Inflation Index for Taxation," 41 ACTEC L. J. 307 (Fall 2015/Winter 2016). DiRusso served as Chair of the AALS Section on Trusts and Estates through the end of the annual meeting and now serves on its executive committee.

## Michael Floyd

Floyd traveled to Brazil from Nov. 19-26, 2016. During his time in Brazil he delivered a lecture on precedent in the American Judicial System at a seminar held at APAMAGIS in São Paulo, in partnership with APM (SP Magistrates Academy), IPAM (SP Magistrates Institute), AAMCLP (Association of the MCL Program Alumni) and the U.S. Consulate. Meetings in São Paulo also included the president of the State Court of São Paulo, Desembargador (Justice) Paulo Dimas de Bellis Mascaretti and Desembargadores Renato de Salles Abreu Filho, Heraldo de Oliveira and Maria Cristina Zucchi. In Brasilia, meetings included the Desembargador Federal Cândido Ribeiro of the Regional Brazilian Federal Court and Dean Getúlio Américo Moreira Lopes of UniCEUB.

## Andrew Greene

Greene was quoted in an article in the *Anniston Star* of August 4 about a suit over E. coli in Choccolocco Creek near the Oxford wastewater plant.

Greene was quoted in the Oct. 4 *Anniston Star* regarding Alabama's suit against the Oxford Water Works & Sewer Board for violations of the state water pollution law.

## Wendy Greene

Greene traveled to Havana, Cuba, with a delegation of over 100 lawyers, judges and law professors as a part of the National Bar Association's (NBA) International Affiliates Meeting. During this historic visit, Greene delivered a CLE presentation on her scholarship on misperception discrimination and examined race, color and gender dynamics in the Americas and Caribbean with Cuban officials. In her capacity as special advisor on Cuba, Greene also secured a private briefing at the U.S. Embassy and assisted with the planning and execution of the Continuing Legal Education program consisting of six panels in Havana.

In July, upon the invitation of the immediate past president of the National Bar Association, civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump, Greene served on the Presidential Showcase opening the NBA's 91st annual convention in St. Louis, Missouri. She lectured on parallel forms of race, color and gender discrimination affecting African descendants in the United States and Brazil. During the annual meeting, Greene also spoke on a panel sponsored by the NBA's Young Lawyers Division exploring non-traditional careers for lawyers.

Greene was selected to participate in the Institute for Constitutional History's summer research seminar, "The Reconstruction Amendments: Freedom, Equality, and the American Constitution," at Stanford Law School. In July, she attended this week-long, interdisciplinary workshop for university instructors who currently teach or plan to teach courses on constitutional law and history. In June, Greene served as a paper discussant on the panel, Advancing Diversity with Feminist Legal Theory, during the Law and Society Association Annual Meeting held in New Orleans, Louisiana. For the fourth consecutive year, Greene served as a planning committee member for the 10th commemorative Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop. During the workshop, hosted by the University of Iowa College of Law in July, Greene served as a plenary panelist and works-in-progress commenter. Over the summer, Greene was also nominated to serve on the board of directors for the American Society for Legal History; the elections are currently in progress.

In September, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals quoted Greene's article, "Title VII: What's Hair (and Other

Race-Based Characteristics) Got to Do With It?" In *EEOC v. Catastrophe Management Solutions*: a Title VII race discrimination case challenging an employer's ban against locked hairstyles. In attempting to overturn over 30 years of legal precedent, the EEOC also relied upon Greene's articles "Title VII: What's Hair Got To Do With It?" and "Black Women Can't Have Blonde Hair . . . In the Workplace"—to argue: 1) a biological notion of race, which treats race as an "immutable" characteristic, should no longer be employed when interpreting Title VII's prohibitions against race discrimination; and 2) employer prohibition of locked hairstyles can constitute a form of unlawful race discrimination.

Greene was interviewed on the 11th Circuit's recent decision in *EEOC v. Catastrophe Management Solutions* for the Bloomberg BNA Employment Discrimination Report.

In October, Greene participated in the Seton Hall Law Employment and Labor Law Scholars' Forum honoring the life and works of Professor Michael Zimmer, an internationally renowned labor and employment law scholar who passed away in 2015. At Seton Hall, Greene presented an invited contribution entitled, "Channeling Zimmer: A Reflection on the Protected Class Paradigm and the Plausibility Pleading Standard in Race Discrimination Cases," which will be published in *The Employee Rights and Employment Policy Journal* housed at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

On Nov. 10, Greene with the NAACP-Legal Defense Fund, Professor Angela Onwuachi-Willig (Berkeley), and the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center filed an amicus brief with the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in support of the EEOC's petition for rehearing en banc in *EEOC v. Catastrophe Management Solutions*. On November 18, at Yale Law School, Professor Greene served as an invited moderator of a panel discussion during the Empirical Critical Race Theory (e-CRT) conference, "Years After Washington v. Davis: Legal and Empirical Reflections."

On Monday, Nov. 28, Greene delivered a keynote lecture for the Black Graduate Students Association at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

During spring 2017, Greene will serve as a visiting professor at the University of Kentucky College of Law, where she will teach Constitutional Law I and Constitutional Law II.

In January, Greene was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Section on Employment Discrimination and on the AALS Section on Constitutional Law. She has served on the former committee since 2013; this year is her first serving on the latter.

## Woodrow Hartzog '02

Hartzog participated in the Association of Pacific Rim University's (APRU) Summer Sessions at Keio University in Tokyo, Japan. The event brings together government regulators, industry representatives, and academics from Asia to explore emerging digital economy issues, such as trade, intellectual property, privacy and cyber security.

In September, Hartzog was quoted in a Fusion story, "When an app tells companies you're pregnant but not that you miscarried."

In September, Hartzog participated in the Privacy Law Salon's Policymakers roundtable at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. At this event, senior privacy officers from some of the most significant companies around the world come together to have candid discussions with key privacy regulators from agencies like the FTC, FCC and HHS.

Hartzog led two panels in October at the Annual Privacy and Security Conference in Washington, D.C. His two panels were titled "Privacy's Blueprint: How Should the Law Regulate Privacy by Design?" and "Japanese Data Protection Law."

Hartzog gave a talk titled "The Public Information Fallacy" at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington in November. He also workshopped chapters from his forthcoming book, *Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies*.

Ars Technica published an essay authored by Hartzog and Danielle Citron titled "Five unexpected lessons from the Ashley Madison breach" in January. He was also quoted in the *MIT Technology Review* article "Should Amazon Echo Help Solve a Murder?" Hartzog was also cited in a story in the *Christian Science Monitor* titled "Can this clothing defeat face recognition software? Tech-savvy artists experiment." Finally, he co-authored a post with Daniel Solove for LinkedIn about the future of the FTC in the Trump administration.

### Tracey Roberts

Roberts' article, "The Taxing Power as a Reverse Takings Clause," has been accepted by the Society for Environmental Law and Economics for presentation at their ninth annual meeting to be held May 26-27, 2017 at Worcester College, University of Oxford. The meeting will be sponsored by the University of Oxford and Notre Dame Law School.

Roberts' article, "Tax Relief for Domestic Violence Survivors," was published in the December/January 2017 issue of the *Domestic Violence Report*. Her paper, "Plato's Laws and the Demands of the Socratic Dialogue," was accepted for presentation at the 20th Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, March 31-April 1 at Stanford University. Roberts and her colleague, Roberta Mann (Oregon) had their book proposal, *Tax and the Environment*, accepted for publication by Lexington Books, an Imprint of Rowman & Littlefield. The edited volume will provide a comparative and international focus on environmental taxation.

### William G. Ross

Ross was quoted in *The New York Times* on Aug. 3 and in *The National Law Journal* on Aug. 8. *The New York Times* article stated, "William G. Ross, a law professor at Samford University . . . who has written extensively about

legal fees, said wealthy defendants should not be faulted for spending money to hire the best lawyers they can afford. 'The sad part,' he said, 'is that those resources are not available in our society to people of modest means or the poor.'" *The National Law Journal* article quoted Professor Ross 12 times about the role of the Supreme Court as an issue in presidential elections, a subject about which he has published a law review article and also addressed in various other of his publications.

Ross was quoted in the Jan. 1 *Washington Times* about the possibility that President Obama would make a recess appointment of Judge Garland to the Supreme Court during the inter-session recess of Congress on Jan. 3.

### Howard Walthall

Walthall was quoted in an article in *Governing* magazine in September on the proposed Constitutional Amendment on November's ballot addressing the impeachment procedures under the Alabama Constitution.

# 2017-18 SAMFORD BULLDOG CLUB



Interested in watching Samford Athletics and having the opportunity to meet other Samford University alumni? The Bulldog Club provides support for Samford's 350 student-athletes. Members enjoy exciting networking events throughout the year that provide opportunities to connect with coaches, staff and guest speakers. Members also receive premium game-day hospitality and reserved parking for all home football and men's basketball games.

**The Bulldog Club is a great way to get involved with Samford University.**

**For more information, go to [samfordsports.com/bulldogclub](http://samfordsports.com/bulldogclub).**

# Longtime Faculty Members Retire



## Bob Goodwin

Bob Goodwin retired at the end of December 2016 after 33 years of teaching at Cumberland School of Law. In that time, he worked with Cumberland's clinical trial program and taught Criminal Law, Evidence, Scientific Evidence and other specialized evidence courses. He became a widely-recognized expert on Alabama evidence law, co-authoring multiple editions of *Gamble's Alabama Rules of Evidence* and *McElroy's Alabama Evidence* with Dean Charles Gamble.



## Belle Stoddard '78

Belle Stoddard, a Cumberland alumna from the class of 1978, retired at the end of December 2016 after 16 years of teaching at Cumberland School of Law. She helped found and, for more than 10 years led, the highly successful Lawyering and Legal reasoning (LLR) program. This program gives Cumberland students a superior grounding in legal writing and practical understanding of civil actions.



## Brenda Jones

Brenda Jones retired at the end of August 2016 after 21 years of service to the faculty and students of Cumberland School of Law. Jones was an invaluable asset to the students and faculty of the law school, as well as to alumni, other lawyers of the Birmingham Bar, as well as law librarians and paralegals who used law library services and resources. In addition to providing reference services to our students and faculty, she conducted training sessions for them in the law library's various resources, conducted law library tours for incoming law students and others, served on the law library web team and wrote for the law library newsletter.



## Cherie Feenker

Cherie Feenker retired at the end of February 2017 after 14 years of services to the faculty and students of Cumberland School of Law. Feenker was actively involved in the law library profession, holding various offices and serving on a variety of committees for multiple law library associations throughout the years. Before joining the law library, Feenker served as director of library services for the William G. Somerville Jr. Library, Lange, Simpson, Robinson & Somerville, LLP and held a variety of positions with the Birmingham Public Library.

# CLASS NOTES COLLECTED FEB. 2016-JULY 2016

## 1967

**H. Chervis Isom Jr.** was named a member of the Board of Overseers, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 1968

**Mr. Stephen B. Moss** was one of two people selected to receive Samford's first humanitarian award. He is a partner at Holland and Knight, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

## 1972

**E. Elliott Barker** was confirmed to the 2016-17 Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy.

**David Lee Thomas** and his wife were honored with the naming of the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina academy. The public charter school was dedicated as Thomas Academy.

## 1974

**Hon. John L. Carroll** was selected as an honoree of the *Birmingham Business Journal's* inaugural Veterans of Influence Award.

**W. Lee Thuston** was named as executive committee member of the Birmingham Business Alliance, and he will assume the newly-established role of chairman while continuing to lead the executive committee at Burr & Forman, Birmingham, Alabama

## 1975

**G. Daniel "Danny" Evans** was awarded the L. Burton Barnes III Public Service Award at the Birmingham Bar Association Annual Meeting.

**John W. Haley** was named to the Greater Birmingham Humane Society Board of Directors

## 1976

**Mitchell R. Heppenheimer** was installed as president of the Indiana State Bar.

**Hon. J. Thomas King Jr.**, retired brigadier general and circuit judge, was recently honored by former University of Alabama athletics director, Bill Battle, and The University of Alabama for 32 years of service to our country and state. General King, a 1971 distinguished military graduate of The University of Alabama ROTC's program, was presented with our nation's flag to commemorate his service.

**Anthony D. Mancinelli** was honored as Buffalo Lawyer of the Year in the area of corporate law.

**Hon. J. Gary Pate** was NBC's sports commentator for the Rio Paralympics. Judge Pate is a retired domestic relations judge who is now teaching domestic relations and advanced domestic relations at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, Birmingham, Alabama

## 1978

**Honora M. Gathings** was accepted as a member of the American Law Society Board of Directors.

**Martha Jane Patton** was the first woman selected to receive the BBA Lifetime Achievement Award at the Birmingham Bar Association Annual Meeting.

**Charles R. Rhodes** retired from the 38th Judicial Circuit, District Attorney's Office, Scottsboro, Alabama.

**Thomas J. "Tommy" Spina** was named to the Greater Birmingham Humane Society Board of Directors.

## 1979

**Hon. James H. Fry** retired as the executive director of Legal Services of Alabama, Montgomery, Alabama.

## 1980

**Hon. Karon O. Bowdre** was selected for Leadership Birmingham 2016-17.

**Hon. James C. Guin III** retired from the 6th Judicial Circuit Court, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

## 1981

**Patti Jane Cruthirds Golden** recently published two travel mysteries, *Secrets in the Vines* and *Danube Defiance*.

**Hon. Charles R. Malone** retired in March from the 6th Judicial Circuit and formed Malone & Nelson LLC, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**Hon. John E. Ott** was confirmed as president of the Birmingham Bar Foundation Board of Directors at the Birmingham Bar Annual Meeting.

**Michael R. White** joined the full-time faculty of Auburn University, Montgomery, Alabama, as senior lecturer of business law, and he is also primary faculty member for legal related courses in the College of Business for undergraduate and graduate studies.

**Hon. William Shashy** retired from the 15th Judicial Circuit Court, Montgomery, Alabama.

**Gov. Charles J. "Charlie" Crist Jr.** was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. As such, Gov. Crist represents the 13th Congressional District, Florida.

## 1984

**Hon. J. Langford Floyd** retired from the bench on Dec. 16, 2016, after 20 years. He joined Lloyd Gray Whitehead & Monroe on Dec. 30, 2016, and managing the Pensacola, Florida, office, while still serving as chair of the State Judges Technology Committee.

**Robert P. Mackenzie III** became managing partner at Starnes Davis Florie, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Gregory D. Snell** opened a new practice, Snell Legal PLLC, Ormond Beach, Florida

## 1985

**S. Leslie Barineau** was confirmed president-elect of the National Conference of Bar Foundations.

**Daniel W. Lee** was named partner at Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Richard E. Smith**, a partner at Christian & Small LLP, was appointed to Samford University's Board of Overseers.

**Daniel D. Sparks** was appointed to the Southeastern Bankruptcy Law Institute's Board of Directors.

**Judi Z. Wurm** is a vice president of estate administration at Regions Private Wealth Management, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 1987

**Jeffrey H. Hoover** was elected as incoming speaker of the Kentucky House of Representatives. He also owns and operates his private law practice in Jamestown, Kentucky.

**Hon. Helen Shores Lee** retired from the 10th Judicial Circuit, Civil Division, Jefferson County, Alabama.

**Phillip W. McCallum** was named executive director of the Alabama State Bar.

## 1988

**W. Todd Carlisle** was named an executive committee member of the Birmingham Business Alliance, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Daisy M. Holder** was elected as a legal aid trustee officer for the 2017 Birmingham Bar Association.

**Donnie C. Hughes Jr.** was promoted to major by the United States Army. Hughes is a member of the Alabama National Guard.

**Michael G. Stewart** is a board member of Medical Properties Trust.

**Hon. William C. Thompson** has served as a judge on the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals for 20 years, as of January 2017. As such, he has been the presiding judge of the court for the past 10 years.

## 1990

**A. David Fawal** was selected as an honoree of the *Birmingham Business Journal's* inaugural Veterans of Influence Award.

**Laura P. Kowalczyk** works in UAB's Supply Chain Department, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Sharon D. Stuart**, partner at Christian & Small LLP, was named president-elect of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association for the 2017-18 term.

## 1991

**Richard S. Costigan III** is a member of the Board of Directors of the California State Historic Governor's Mansion Foundation.

**Mark M. Hull**, associate professor of history at Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, presented the ninth lecture in the Pershing Lecture Series, "Lawfare: The Great War and the Idea of Justice." The intent of the series is to educate the public about World War I during its 100-year commemoration.

**Elizabeth H. Hutchins** was named The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham Outstanding Professional Advisor for the 2016 National Philanthropy Day Awards by Alabama's Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

## 1992

**William C. "Beau" Byrd II** was named president of the Auburn University Alumni Association and elected chairperson of the Auburn University Master of Real Estate Development Program Advisory Council. Byrd is a partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

# CLASS NOTES

**Thomas A. Davis** was selected for Leadership Birmingham 2016-17.

**Nancy R. Phillips** became chief human resources officer at Nielsen Holdings PLC, New York, New York.

## 1993

**David W. Langston** was named county attorney for the Morgan County Commission in Alabama.

## 1994

**Michael A. Catalano** became vice president and general counsel at Southern Research, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Edward C. Hixon** is an assistant attorney general for the state of Alabama.

**Hon. Kelly Jo McKibben**, Florida's 18th Circuit Court Judge, was the recipient of the 2016 William E. Gladstone Award at the annual Child Protection Summit held in Orlando, Florida.

## 1995

**Anne L. Durward** joined the dean's executive council for Orlean Beeson School of Education at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 1996

**Christopher A. Bottcher** was named a member at McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Martha R. Cook** opened her own law and mediation practice, Martha Reeves Cook, LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Allison L. Dearing** launched One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center, Birmingham, Alabama. She is the executive director.

## 1997

**Hon. Elisabeth A. French** was re-elected as a 10th Judicial Circuit Court Judge for Jefferson County, Alabama.

**Jonathan Earl Walker** was appointed as Judge of Compensation Claims for the Panama City District,

## 1998

**Marc James Ayers** was appointed by the Supreme Court of Alabama to the Alabama Pattern Jury Instructions Committee.

**Jonathan L. "Jack" Draper** was elected as mayor of Anniston, Alabama.

**Kerry P. McInerney** was selected for Leadership Birmingham 2016-17.

**James M. Smith** opened an office of Hagwood Adelman and Tipton in Paris, Tennessee.

**Joseph E. B. "Jeb" Stewart** contributed chapters on Lorenzo "Piper" Davis and Jimmie Newberry for an upcoming book by the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) about the Birmingham Black Barons, Homestead Grays, and the last Negro World Series, which was played in 1948. Jeb continues practicing at Austill Lewis Pipkin & Maddox PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 1999

**Derek F. Meek** was named chair of the Chapter Presidents' Council of the Global Turnaround Management Association for 2017. Meek is a partner at Burr & Forman LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2000

**Chadwick H. Greer** is at VanLanduyt Giles LLC, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Demetra L. Liggins** was an honoree at the Super-Bold Women's Empowerment Brunch, Houston, Texas. Demetra founded "Corporate Homie" and is a partner at Thompson & Knight LLP.

**Virginia E. Miller** was elected as a new section representative for the Birmingham Bar Association.

## 2001

**John E. "Jack" Campbell** was elected as chief prosecutor (state attorney) for the 2nd Judicial Circuit, Tallahassee, Florida.

**Christopher D. Glover** moved to Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles PC's new office in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Hon. James T. Patterson** was invested as circuit court judge, 13th Judicial Circuit, Mobile, Alabama.

**F. Brady Rigdon** is at the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2002

**Elizabeth Blake Hale Hardwich** is at Adams & Reese LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Annette R. Heim** opened The Law Offices of Annette R. Heim PA, Concord, North Carolina.

**Tobie J. Smith** is at the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Alabama.

## 2003

**Rachel V. Barlotta** is a 2017 leadership forum class member for the Alabama State Bar.

**Christopher F. Heiness** moved to The Heiness Law Firm LLC | Red Mountain Law Group, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jonathan M. Hooks** was named partner at Christian & Small LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jason R. "Jay" Smith** is partner of a new law firm, Brockwell Smith LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2004

**John M. Florence** was appointed corporate vice president, general counsel and secretary of Sonoco Products Company, Hartsville, South Carolina.

**Laura S. Maki** is an attorney at Morgan & Morgan, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Lance J. Wilkerson** is at Butler Snow in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2005

**Kelli H. Canteley** is at Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC, Columbia, South Carolina.

**Roger Page Hall** is at Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC, Columbia, South Carolina.

## 2006

**Bruce J. Downey IV** began his second term as city attorney for Anniston, Alabama.

**Robert B. Goss** was awarded a pro bono award in June by the State Bar of Texas for his assistance to enlisted military and veterans.

**Joseph L. Hubbard Jr.** opened the Joe Hubbard Law Firm in Montgomery, Alabama.

**Susan Nettles Han** is a 2017 leadership forum class member of the Alabama State Bar.

**Patrick L. Lowther** was named partner at Morris Manning & Martin LLP, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Cheryl H. Oswalt** is a 2017 leadership forum class member of the Alabama State Bar.

**Kelli Flanders Robinson** is a corporate compliance consultant/HIPAA analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Randall L. Woodfin** announced his candidacy to become mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2007

**Bricker S. Daughtry** is a partner at Fortson Bentley & Griffin P.A., Athens, Georgia.

**Kelli Byers Hooper** is founder and principal of KBH Law and Academy Mediation, Fayetteville, Georgia.

**C. Vance McBrayer Jr.** is the administrator at Tabernacle Christian School, Gardendale, Alabama.

**Stewart W. McCloud** was named partner at Huie Fernambucq & Stewart LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Kimberly M. Perkins** was elected as at-large member of the Birmingham Bar Association's Executive Committee.

**Aaron Charles Ryan** is at Conchin Cloud & Cole LLC, Huntsville, Alabama.

**Allen W. Sheehan** is a 2017 leadership forum class member for the Alabama State Bar.

## 2008

**K. Mac Bracewell Jr.** is a partner of Brennan Manna & Diamond LLC in Jacksonville, Florida.

**J. Brian Duncan** was named associate fellow of Litigation Counsel of America.

**Christie J. Estes** is in-house counsel at Quality Correctional Healthcare, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Robyn Owens Lee** is an associate at Alexander Shunarah Personal Injury Lawyers PC, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Brooke Garner Malcom** was named partner at Light-foot Franklin White LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**R. Rhett Owens** is an attorney at Hall Booth Smith PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Heather D. Piper** opened Piper McCracken PLLC in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Luisa Kay Reyes** wrote a piece titled "Thank You" which was selected for inclusion in *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*, an anthology to be published in April 2017.

**J. Ashley Sawyer** was named a partner with Hedgepeth Heredia & Rieder, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Jaime H. Scivley** was promoted to principal of Bressler Amery & Ross P.C., Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2009

**Michael A. Chester** is general counsel at Hospital Services Direct, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Margaret Head "Megan" Jones** was named partner at Huie Fernambucq & Stewart LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Hannah Baril Lansdon** is at Pate Holdings Inc., Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**Anthony N. Romano** was named partner at Burr & Forman LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Megan P. Stephens** was named partner at Burr & Forman LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Ryan D. Thompson** is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Sarah S. Thomson** was named partner at Leitman Siegal & Payne PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Matthew W. Tynan** is an assistant city attorney in Austin, Texas.

## 2010

**Andrew E. Brashier** was named principal at Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles PC, Montgomery, Alabama.

**Laura L. Cade** is a human resources specialist at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Heather Locklar Civils** is an estate planner at Warren Averett, Birmingham, Alabama.

**W. Osborne Crosby** is manager, government relations at Asurion, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Krystal L. Drummond** is a 2017 leadership forum class member for the Alabama State Bar.

**Kyle J. Dulock** is a staff attorney at UnitedHealth Group, OptumRx, Duluth, Georgia.

**John M. Exum** is vice president and corporate counsel at Ameris Bank, Thomasville, Georgia.

**J. Wesley Fain** is assistant general counsel for Surgical Care Affiliates, Homewood, Alabama.

**David V. Hayes** was named partner at Owen Gleaton Egan Jones & Sweeney LLP, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Jonathan E. Moody** is a litigation technology consultant at Page One LLC, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Adam L. Sanders** is a 2017 leadership forum class member for the Alabama State Bar.

**William Stancil "Will" Starnes Jr.** was named partner at Starnes Davis Florie LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Courtney Peinhardt Stidham** is an associate at Pendley Baudin & Coffin, New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Margaret Ann Ware Vinsant** is a manager of supplier relations at Utilities Service Alliance Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Lindsay S. Whitworth** is an attorney at Maynard Cooper & Gale, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2011

**Jesse K. Anderson** was named a shareholder at Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black P.C., Montgomery, Alabama.

**Charlie G. Baxley** is a 2017 leadership forum class member of the Alabama State Bar.

**Brandon S. Hays** opened Artefact Supply, a men's boutique in Birmingham, Alabama, while continuing to practice with his firm Second Row Law.

**Amanda L. Kistler** received an award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (Birmingham Division), in April 2016, recognizing her "outstanding prosecution" in human trafficking for Jefferson County, while working as deputy district attorney for Jefferson County, Alabama.

**Felicia M. Lee** was promoted to associate counsel at Protective Life Corporation, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Kristin A. Martin Lough** is a senior policy analyst in the director's eligibility unit at The Department of Medical Assistance Services, Mechanicsville, Virginia.

**Brandon C. Prince** was elected as at-large member of the Birmingham Bar Association's Executive Committee.

## 2012

**Matthew J. Akin** is with Capstone Real Estate Investments, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Elizabeth Lyerly Brasher** is a wealth management advisor at Regions Bank, Montgomery, Alabama.

**A. Todd Campbell** was named partner at Campbell Guin LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Hon. D. Tatum Davis** was elected judge for the Bradford County Court, Florida.

**Michelle L. Delgado** is a recruiting coordinator at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis LLP, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Lisa Lenzi Hale** is an attorney at HealthSouth Corporation, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Ryan J. Hicks** is an attorney based in Nashville, Tennessee, for Burgeon Legal Group, Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

**Katie M. Kimbrell** was selected as one of "Birmingham's Finest" by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

**Craig D. Lawrence Jr.** is special counsel at Adams and Reese, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Michelle N. Ortiz Israel** is owner and managing attorney of Reichard Law Firm LLC, Denver, Colorado.

**Britney Kennedy Pope** is an attorney at LeVan Sprader Patton Plymire & Offutt, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Matthew S. Wisda** is vice president of New Castle Homes, Huntsville, Alabama, in addition to maintaining his solo practice.

## 2013

**Thomas J. Claud III** is a legal and compliance officer at Resource Management Service LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Elizabeth A. Dunn** is a vice president, compliance officer at BBVA Compass Bank, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Margaret E. "Meg" Greer** was selected to participate in a program called the Young Gamechangers in Augusta, Georgia. The group was organized to promote new ideas and solutions to challenges.

**B. Sean Hicks** is an associate at The Ike Gulas Law Firm P.C., Birmingham, Alabama.

**Avery C. Livingston** submitted a paper to the Midwest Political Science Association which was accepted. Livingston will be an author and presenter within the "Governance Issues for Non-Government Organizations" panel session. The paper is titled "Policy Adoption and Networked Governance: How Power Arrangements Explain Local Approaches to HIV Testing."

**Edward T. Rowe** is an associate at Hand Arendall, LLC in Mobile, Alabama.

**John C. Shashy** is a senior complex litigation specialist attorney at ProAssurance, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Clinton T. "Clint" Speegle** was selected by the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama (PARCA) for their 2017 PARCA Roundtable.

**Laura Lundy Wheale** was cast in big screen movies, including *A Larger Life*, *Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, and *Sully*, while continuing to practice law at Childers, Schlueter & Smith LLC, Atlanta, Georgia.

# CLASS NOTES

## 2014

**William D. "Trey" Bowling III** is a senior tax consultant at Deloitte, Denver, Colorado.

**Katelyn Carr Buchanan** is at Austill Lewis Pipkin & Maddox PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jonathan Gabriel Castro** is directing attorney for the Immigration and Refugee Services Department of Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, California.

**Matthew P. Howell** is a trademark examining attorney at United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C.

**Eleanor G. Jolley** is an associate at Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Jason E. Lee** is an associate at Hand Arendall LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**David R. Leffard III** is Veterans Federal Defense Attorney, State of Tennessee Division of Health Care Finance and Administration, Nashville, Tennessee.

**Ruby K. Panter** is an attorney at New Beginnings Family Law PC, Huntsville, Alabama.

**W. Kayla Schoen** opened her own practice, The Schoen Firm LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Brian J. Ware** is an associate at Donahue & Associates LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2015

**R. Clayton Cain** is an attorney at Cain Law LLC, Atlanta, Georgia.

**J. Krista Cowley** is a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Patrick Ballard '96, 10th Circuit Court, Jefferson County, Alabama.

**Elizabeth M. Dalziel** is an attorney at Parker MacIntyre, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Thomas P. Edington** is an attorney at Harris Caddell & Shanks PC, Decatur, Alabama.

**Matthew T. Johnson** is an associate with the National Republican Senatorial Committee in Washington, D.C.

**Sheena M. Johnson** is an associate at Morris Bart & Associates LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Halie E. Namie** is an associate at White and Oakes, Decatur, Alabama.

**Matthew W. Nicholson** is at Campbell Law PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Sarah S. Osborne** is an attorney at Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Carl Ray Sewell III** is a clerk for the Honorable Chief Judge John Simpson, Judicial Circuit, Coweta County, Georgia.

**Megan Johnson Templeton** is an associate at Morris Bart & Associates LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Rushton G. "Rush" Thrift** is vice president and general counsel at Thrift Development, Seneca, South Carolina.

**Cynthia H. Upton** is a Medicare compliance specialist at Carr Allison, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Ashley S. Waldrop** is an attorney advisor in the Executive Office of Immigration Review at the Department of Justice, Opelika, Alabama.

## 2016

**Hilaire R. Armstrong** is a law clerk for the honorable Javan Patton, 10th Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County, Alabama.

**Tara W. Bush** is an associate at Balch & Bingham LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Sarah C. Chamberlain** is an associate at Starnes Davis Florie LLP, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Lindsey D. Cochran** is an associate at Burr Forman, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Caroline M. Collins** is at Nathan & Nathan, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Amanda R. Coolidge** is an associate at Lanier Ford Shaver Payne PC, Huntsville, Alabama.

**Chase S. Eley** is an associate at Fish Nelson & Holden LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Andrew P. Gidiere** is a volunteer extern in the general legal services division of the Internal Revenue Service's office of chief counsel while pursuing an LLM in taxation at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.

**C. Elise Gilbert** is an associate at Lloyd Gray Whitehead & Monroe, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Erin G. Godwin** is an associate at Carr Allison, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Catherine E. Guy** is a civil law clerk for the Honorable Sarah H. Stewart, 13th Judicial Circuit, Mobile County, Alabama.

**Collin D. Hatcher** is an associate at King Yaklin & Wilkins LLP, Marietta, Georgia.

**Jessica A. Hayslip** is an attorney at Burke Harvey LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Margaret F. "Meg" Jameson** is working in the legal department at Protective Life Corporation, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Asher L. Kitchings** is an associate at Campbell Guin, Birmingham, Alabama.

**John D. Marsh** is an associate at Marsh Rickard & Bryan PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**T. Alan Moore Jr.** is completing an LL.M. in information technology and intellectual property as part of the Cumberland School of Law exchange program with University of East Anglia Law School, Norwich, United Kingdom.

**Caroline Collins Muse** is an associate at Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP, Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Julie A. Musolf** is an attorney at Adams White Oliver Short & Forbus LLP, Opelika, Alabama.

**Austin L. Nichols** is at the District Attorney's office in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Brandi A. Russell** is an admission counselor for Savannah Law School, Savannah, Georgia.

**Kyle A. Scholl** is an attorney at Carr Allison, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Bret L. Thompson** is an associate at Burr Forman, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Kathryn S. Turner** is pursuing an LL.M. in international studies at American University's Washington College of Law.

**Spencer E. Walker** is working at the Jefferson County Public Defender's Office, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Brian J. Ware** is an associate at Donahue & Associates LLC, Birmingham, Alabama.

**Dustin W. Warren** started his own practice, Dustin W. Warren, Attorney at Law, in Danville, Kentucky.

## MARRIAGES

**Stewart James Alvis '16** married Kelsey Hopper on Aug. 6, 2016. They reside in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

**Joel R. Blankenship '05** married Haley Lucido on Oct. 8, 2016. They reside in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Lauren E. Lomax '14** married Coleman Brown on Dec. 10, 2016. They reside in Warner Robins, Georgia.

**Haley E. Namie '15 and Phoenix J. Iverson '15** married on Nov. 12, 2016. They reside in Decatur, Alabama.

**C Robyn L. Owens '08** married Nickolas M. Lee on Oct. 22, 2016. They reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Brandon C. Prince '11** married Angelica Rose on Oct. 8, 2016. They reside in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Courtney Charles Snelling '12** married Delia Dunlap on Aug. 7, 2016. They reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Ryan N. Stringfellow '10** married Camilla Jo Bratton on July 23, 2016. They reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

**A. Laura Terry '11** married Sherman Blackstone Powell IV on Dec. 17, 2016. They reside in Moulton, Alabama.

**Matthew N. "Matt" Tully '10** married Joy Beth Barganier Smith on Dec. 17, 2016. They reside in Birmingham, Alabama.

## BIRTHS

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**Caroline Hughes Benefield '13** and Jackson Benefield announced the birth of a daughter, Taylor Sinclair Benefield, Aug. 2, 2016.

**Sara Hames Core '11 and R. Houston Core Jr. '11** announced the birth of a daughter, Hadley Elizabeth Core, June 23, 2016.

**Christopher H. Daniel '11** and Lucy Daniel announced the birth of triplets, two daughters and a son, Frances Hereford Daniel, Laura Stone Daniel, and William Seaton Daniel, Dec. 21, 2016.

**Rachel Winford Eidson '10** and Taylor Eidson announced the birth of a son, William Bradley Eidson, Oct. 27, 2016.

**J. Wesley Fain '10** and Stephanie Fain announced the birth of a son, John Wesley "Jack" Fain Jr. on Feb. 2, 2017.

**Thomas Roe Frazer III '14** and Ivy Frazer announced the birth of a daughter, Catherine Anne Frazer, Sept. 29, 2016.

**Walter R. Gewin '13** and Blair Gewin announced the birth of a daughter, Amelia Wren Gewin, Aug. 10, 2016.

**Katherine Garrety "Katie" Gibson '12** and James Gibson announced the birth of a son, Andrew Wolfe Gibson, Dec. 22, 2016.

**William H. "Will" Harrell '12** and Julia Klein Harrell announced the birth of a son, William Holton Harrell Jr., Jan. 2, 2017.

**Brian D. Hayes '16** and Emily Hayes announced the birth of a son, Holden James Hayes, Jan. 17, 2017.

**Kiel Gross Hunter '10** and Josh Hunter announced the birth of a daughter, Henly Grey Hunter on Sept. 19, 2016.

**Jessica Davis King '11** and Ian King announced the birth of a son, Davis King, Aug. 18, 2016.

**Andrew Clair Knowlton '09** and May Knowlton announced the birth of a daughter, Anne Yates Knowlton, on Sept. 16, 2016.

**Keith David Knowlton '13** and Rachel Walton Knowlton announced the birth of a daughter, Frances Holland Knowlton, Dec. 29, 2016.

**John D. Marsh '16** and Mary Kathryn Marsh announced the birth of a daughter, Selah Brooks Marsh, Jan. 16, 2017.

**Alexander E. Munderloh '11** and Emma Munderloh announced the birth of a daughter, Catherine Cornelia Munderloh, July 14, 2016.

**Samantha Jolly Naramore '13 and John W. Naramore '13** announced the birth of a daughter, Lena James Naramore, Dec. 19, 2016.

**Andrea Lyons Schmiedebusch '08** and Darek Schmiedebusch announced the birth of a daughter, Ruby Laine Schmiedebusch, Dec. 9, 2016.

**Bethany H. Sneed '11** and Andrew Sneed announced the birth of a daughter, Frances Goodloe Sneed, Oct. 7, 2016.

**Patrick K. Yeatts '10** and Meghan Yeatts announced the birth of a daughter, Lucille Kimball Yeatts, Nov. 20, 2016.

## IN MEMORIAM

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**Steven Kirk Aldridge '82** of Tuscumbia, Alabama, died Jan. 12, 2017.

**Joseph Norton Bacon '92** of Morristown, Tennessee, died Aug. 10, 2016.

**Professor Emeritus and Gov. Albert P. Brewer (honorary degree '68)** of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 2, 2017.

**Ronald T. Dudley Jr. '87** of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Nov. 16, 2016.

**Sherri Marie Graves '96** of Tuscumbia, Alabama, died on Nov. 2, 2016.

**James Frederick Harrington '83** of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, died on Oct. 27, 2016.

**Jackie O. Isom '66** of Hamilton, Alabama, died on Nov. 1, 2016.

**Leanne A. Levett '85** of Winter Park, Florida, died January 2017.

**J. Anthony "Tony" McLain '77** of Montgomery, Alabama, died January 1, 2017.

**Romaine S. Scott III '80** of Birmingham, Alabama, died on Sept. 19, 2016.

**Michael Stanley Sheier '65** of Anniston, Alabama, died Oct. 10, 2016.

**Thomas "Tom" M. Sowa '75** of Anniston, Alabama, died on Sept. 25, 2016.

**Mitchell Alan Spears '82** of Montevallo, Alabama, died on Oct. 12, 2016.

**James Edwin Upshaw '58** of Maben, Mississippi, died Dec. 18, 2016.

# SAVE THE DATE

## FOR SUMMER ALUMNI EVENTS



**Friday, June 9** Jekyll Island, Georgia: Reception  
Held during the State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting  
Recognizing Nicole Leet '07, president-elect Young Lawyer Division

**Thursday, July 13** Point Clear, Alabama:  
Reception at the Grand Marriott Hotel  
Held during the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting