The Fellows Program seeks to recruit not only outstanding students with strong academic credentials, but also a history of leadership and commitment to family, friends and community. Prior to his death on October 3, 2011, Jere and his wife, Lyda, established the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program at Cumberland.

The Fellows Program includes every member of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of Canada. The Fellows are dedicated to maintaining the highest standard of the practice of law. A third-generation lawyer, he was truly a lawyer's lawyer. He cherished his relationships with the Bench and lawyers on both sides of the Bar. Jere balanced his success as a lawyer with an even stronger devotion to his family, friends and community. Prior to his death on October 3, 2011, Jere and his wife, Lyda, established the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program at Cumberland.

He was selected by Chambers USA in 2012, 2013 and 2014, as one of the top ten women litigators nationally. She was selected by Chambers as a national finalist for Woman Litigator of the Year in 2012. Law360 recognized Varner twice in 2011–12, first, as one of ten “MVPs” in product liability, and second, as one of the top 15 women litigators in the country. In 2012, BTI Consulting Group recognized Varner as one of only three litigators in the country providing the most outstanding client service, based on a survey of corporate counsel at large and Fortune 1000 companies. In 2018, Chambers describes her as one of the top try lawyers in the country. She was appointed by Chief Justice Rehnquist in 2004 and reappointed by Chief Justice Roberts in 2007 to the Federal Civil Rules Advisory Committee, where she participated in the committee’s drafting of amendments governing electronic discovery and changes to the Rules governing summary judgment, expert discovery, and information-gathering from third parties and corporate executives. Varner completed her 2012-13 term as President of the American College of Trial Lawyers. She is currently the President of the United States Supreme Court History Society. Varner maintains an active nationwide practice representing plaintiffs and defendants, and is from all parts of the trial bar. The College is proud that its fellows include every member of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of Canada. The Fellows Program seeks to recruit not only outstanding students with strong academic credentials, but also a history of leadership and commitment to service, thereby promoting the development of lawyers who share the ideals that were so important to Jere.

The Alabama Fellows

The American College of Trial Lawyers was founded in 1950 with a mission to maintain and improve the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice, and ethics of our profession. The Fellows represent plaintiffs and defendants, and are from all parts of the trial bar. The College is proud that its fellows include every member of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of Canada. The Alabama Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers are dedicated to maintaining the highest standard of the practice of law. A third-generation lawyer, he was truly a lawyer's lawyer. He cherished his relationships with the Bench and lawyers on both sides of the Bar. Jere balanced his success as a lawyer with an even stronger devotion to his family, friends and community. Prior to his death on October 3, 2011, Jere and his wife, Lyda, established the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program at Cumberland.
7:45 A.M. REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:25 A.M. WELCOME
Robert F. MacKeana III

DRAWING FOR 2018 IRON BOWL TICKETS*

MANAGING SESSION MODERATOR
James L. Green

9:30 A.M. OPENING STATEMENT
Defendant Perspective
George W. (Skip) Finkbohner III

9:30 A.M. OPENING STATEMENT
Plaintiff Perspective
Jeffrey S. Leon

10:30 A.M. REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 A.M. DRAWING FOR HIGHLAND S & RAR GRILL GIFT CERTIFICATE*

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN TIMES OF PARTISAN POLITICS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Moderator: Anthony A. Joseph
Richard H. (Rick) Deane Jr.

11:45 A.M. THE JERE E. WHITE JR. FELLOWS PROGRAM AND TRIBUTE TO JERE E. WHITE JR.
Sandra M. Franklin

12:10 P.M. LUNCHEON | INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Investment Warren Lightfoot

11:55 A.M. NETWORKING BREAK
Defendant Perspective
Harlan I. Prater IV

1:15 P.M. NETWORKING BREAK

2:45 P.M. DRAWING FOR GUS MAYER GIFT CERTIFICATE*

CROSS-EXAMINATION

Plaintiff Perspective
Louis V. Franklin Sr.

3:45 P.M. CLOSING ARGUMENTS
Defendant Perspective
Louis V. Franklin Sr.

2:30 P.M. REFRESHMENT BREAK