From the Dean

I am somewhat concerned that putting my picture on this issue of the Cumberland Lawyer will scare little children but am deeply humbled by the honor. It is hard for me to believe that I have been dean of our law school for 10 years.

People often ask me how I have managed to stay in this position when the average tenure of a law school dean is about five years. My answer is always the same. It is because of the Cumberland people—our students, faculty, staff and alumni—that I have the honor and privilege of associating with on a daily basis. Those Cumberland people make coming to the law school every day a real joy.

All of them have made this a very remarkable place. We have students from all over the country who are bright, but more importantly, good people as well. We have a faculty who are prolific scholars, but just as importantly, very effective teachers. They also possess a quality unique in legal education today, the faculty cares more about our students than they do their individual careers.

We also have a staff that, top to bottom, is the finest at any law school in the country. They are dedicated, highly motivated and committed to our success, and they like the faculty, care deeply about our students.

Then, of course, we have all of you—more than 8,000 Cumberland lawyers spread all over the world. Your support of the law school is really phenomenal. You hire our graduates, coach our advocacy teams, teach our students and provide the all-important financial support Cumberland School of Law needs. One of the great pleasures of my deanship has been traveling the country, meeting with you and learning about your fascinating careers. You are great ambassadors for our law school and great role models for our students. Thanks for all you do for our law school and for our profession.

John L. Carroll
Dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law
Alumnus Chuck Malone Named Alabama Chief Justice

Charles R. “Chuck” Malone of Tuscaloosa, Ala., a 1981 graduate of Samford’s Cumberland School of Law, has been named chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. A former Tuscaloosa County presiding circuit judge, Malone was serving as chief of staff to Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, who appointed him chief justice Aug. 1.

Malone is the first Cumberland School of Law graduate to serve as Alabama’s chief justice, according to Dean John L. Carroll.

“Judge Malone brings a perfect balance of judicial and administrative expertise needed for this position,” said Gov. Bentley at a news conference introducing the new chief justice.

A Republican, Malone succeeds Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, a Democrat who was elected in 2006 but chose not to run for re-election in 2012. She resigned earlier this summer, effective July 31. Next year, Malone will run for a full term for the chief justice post beginning in 2013.

Malone, 57, was a lawyer in private practice in Tuscaloosa for 20 years, serving as president of the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association. He was elected a Tuscaloosa County circuit judge in 2000 and re-elected in 2006.

The new chief justice has served as an adjunct lecturer at Cumberland School of Law and at the University of Alabama, where he earned his undergraduate degree.

He and his wife, Terri, are parents of two adult children. The Malones are members of First Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa.

Law Week 2011

Law Week 2011 was more exciting than ever, featuring events each day of the week and culminating in Reunion Weekend 2011. Students and staff enjoyed the festive Rascal Parade and lunch, and the second annual Cumberland Classic Golf Tournament, which raised money for the Student Bar Association.

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Trial Teams Sweep Regional Competitions

Cumberland School of Law trial teams experienced an extremely successful year, sweeping the Regionals of both the National Trial Competition [NTC] and the American Association for Justice [AAJ] Regional Student Trial Advocacy Competition.

Cumberland School of Law’s Trial Advocacy Board hosted Region 6 of the NTC competition Feb. 18-20 in downtown Birmingham. The competition welcomed 26 teams from 13 law schools in Alabama, Florida and Mississippi. More than 200 judges and attorneys were recruited from throughout Alabama to judge 52 trials over the weekend. After five rounds of competition, two teams from Cumberland School of Law won the regional competition.

The Cumberland School of Law trial team, coached by Mike Rasmussen ’76 and Marc Jaskolka ’00, also placed first and second at the AAJ Regional Student Trial Advocacy Competition held in Montgomery, Ala., March 4-6. Cumberland School of Law teams defeated students from the University of South Carolina, University of Mississippi, Charleston School of Law, University of Alabama and Faulkner University in the preliminary and semifinal rounds.

Cumberland School of Law hosted Region 6 of the National Trial Competition and took both first and second place.

Mercedes Marathon

Thirty-two Cumberland School of Law students participated in this year’s Mercedes Marathon in Birmingham.

This year, 32 students and faculty participated in the challenging marathon that winds around downtown Birmingham. Five students and Professor Brannon Denning completed the half marathon, and third-year student Matthew Bracey completed the full marathon.

University of Alabama School of Law in the final round to go undefeated for the tournament. The law school’s teams are coached by Judge Jim Roberts ’94 and Sara Williams ’96.

The Cumberland School of Law teams faced each other in the championship round Sunday, with the team of Ross Massey ’11, Carrie Hodge ’11 and third-year student Samantha Nicolle defeated Nova Southeastern University School of Law in the semifinal round and the

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Cumberland School of Law hosted Region 6 of the National Trial Competition and took both first and second place. Three law school relay teams placed in the top 15 teams in the mixed open division, finishing seventh, eighth and 13th overall of 97 teams.

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April 27, 2011, was a day that forever changed residents of the Southeast, including many Cumberland School of Law constituents. Officials believe 346 people were killed across seven states when a band of tornadoes dubbed April’s Fury ravaged the South, making it the deadliest twister outbreak since the Great Depression.

The law school did not experience any direct physical damage from the storms, but many areas of Alabama were not so lucky. The National Weather Service announced that 13 tornadoes hit Alabama that Wednesday, claiming the lives of 239 residents. Thousands others were directly impacted by the storms, which leveled homes, offices and communities, and ripped apart families and friends.

Cumberland alumna Julie Love ’99 was one of those affected by the storms. Thanks to text messages from fellow alumna Tricia Gill ’99, Love realized the severity of the storms and was able to escape to her Tuscaloosa, Ala., home just a mile and a half from her office. Her home was unaffected from the storms while her office was completely destroyed.

“The first thing Love thought in the aftermath was “Where are my files?” Now she laughs and says, “I know there’s no Bar opinion on what you do if an F5 tornado levels your office.” A police officer allowed Love access to her office immediately after the storm, and she was able to retrieve her sturdy 1950s file cabinet. “As we returned to try to recover files, I thought it humorous that the item that cost me the most money remained hanging on the wall without a scratch,” she said. Her Cumberland School of Law diploma survived the tornado amidst the surrounding destruction.

Operations at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa were suspended for the remainder of the semester to accommodate recovery efforts. Cumberland School of Law opened its doors to University of Alabama School of Law students and acted as a host site for final exams.

“The one thing that triumphs at a time like this is our humanity and sense of community,” said Dean Carroll. “I am always proud of our faculty, staff and students, but I have never been more proud than I am now as I watch them respond to the devastation wrought by the tornadoes.”

Though people have come together from across the nation to assist in recovery efforts, there is still a long road ahead. Samford President Andrew Westmoreland said it best in an email to the university community: “We must remember that we are now engaged in a marathon, not a sprint. Let’s focus on immediate needs while remembering that ‘normal’ may be a distant point on the horizon.”

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Communities come together to transform a path of destruction into a path of hope

1. Julie Love proudly displays her Cumberland School of Law diploma, which weathered the storm’s destruction.
2. Lauren McCaghren, associate director of alumni relations, works with other university employees to assist in recovery efforts.
3. Law faculty and students volunteered with legal clinics in the Birmingham area to aid tornado victims.
4. Cumberland alumna Julie Love ’99 was one of those affected by the storms. Thanks to text messages from fellow alumna Tricia Gill ’99, Love realized the severity of the storms and was able to escape to her Tuscaloosa, Ala., home just a mile and a half from her office. Her home was unaffected from the storms while her office was completely destroyed. The first thing Love thought in the aftermath was “Where are my files?” Now she laughs and says, “I know there’s no Bar opinion on what you do if an F5 tornado levels your office.” A police officer allowed Love access to her office immediately after the storm, and she was able to retrieve her sturdy 1950s file cabinet. “As we returned to try to recover files, I thought it humorous that the item that cost me the most money remained hanging on the wall without a scratch,” she said. Her Cumberland School of Law diploma survived the tornado amidst the surrounding destruction.
How they met: Ricardo Woods became hooked on Cumberland School of Law’s trial teams after volunteering as a witness his first year. He considered leaving school after he lost his mother and maternal grandmother during his second year, but stayed after he made the trial team coached by Jim Roberts. Over the years, they’ve watched each other grow professionally: Woods as an experienced litigator, and Roberts as a judge on the 6th Circuit (he was sworn in earlier this year).

Mentee on Mentor: I never saw myself as a litigator. Being on Jim’s team for those three years changed my path completely. The time I spent on his team became big part of how I practice law today and ultimately a major part of my identity as a lawyer. Frankly speaking, I don’t know who I would be if Judge Roberts had not taken the time to play a key role in my life.

Mentor on Mentee: Even from that first year, I knew that Ricardo had the potential to be something really special. One of the great things about coaching is seeing in people something that they may not see in themselves, and having the opportunity to help them unlock that potential. Ricardo was a perfect example of that. It was just a matter of getting him to understand and appreciate what God blessed him with to realize what he could do.

Mentor provides realistic knowledge, motivation and professional guidance to another individual. Some view mentoring as a business and a social imperative, helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow. Others are honored to have been the focus of a mentor and now wish to repay that experience.

The origin of the mentor can be traced to Homer’s The Odyssey. When Odysseus left to fight in the Trojan War, he left his son, Telemachus, in the care of his trusted friend, Mentor. Mentor selflessly served Telemachus as both a guardian and adviser, helping him to mature and actualize his untapped potential. Just as Mentor helped to guide and grow Telemachus, the following pages feature mentor relationships between alumni and others who have shaped the lives and careers of mentees. In all cases, however, the mentors have also been shaped by the experience, far beyond their expectations.

If you would like the opportunity to mentor a current Cumberland School of Law student, go to http://cumberland.samford.edu/alumni/student-success-mentor-program to see how you can influence the next generation of lawyers.

Frankly speaking, I don’t know who I would be if Judge Roberts had not taken the time to play a key role in my life.
MENTOR
Mike Atchison ’68
Burr & Forman, LLP

MENTEE
Bob MacKenzie ’84
Starnes Davis Florie, LLP

How they met: Bob MacKenzie and Mike Atchison met in 1984 at a party at the home of Chervis Isom ’67. MacKenzie was a third-year law student looking for a job. He had heard of Atchison’s excellent reputation from Professor Howard Walthall. A couple months later, MacKenzie was hired at Atchison’s firm, and their relationship began from there.

Mentor on Mentor: Mike showed me you can be a successful lawyer and remain on good terms with opposing lawyers and parties. I remember many occasions in trial with Mike when the plaintiff’s attorney would begin a closing argument, but instead of talking about the plaintiff’s injury and damages, the focus was on how much the jury liked Mike. I have seen Mike totally discredit a witness without raising his voice or a hint of sarcasm. Rather, Mike’s approach has always been based upon preparation and sincerity. Mike has an incredible reputation in the legal community and has influenced so many of today’s lawyers. You don’t get to pick and choose your mentor; I was fortunate. I am so happy to say I ever could or did measure up to Mike’s standard. Mike and I no longer work together, but influence doesn’t cease when you move your office from one place to another.

Mentor on Mentee: Bob was always outgoing and energetic. He never met a person he didn’t like, and to my knowledge, he’s never said a bad word about another person. Bob struck me out on his own, trying cases by himself, and he’s done an incredible job. As a result, he’s become a great mentor to other young lawyers. Bob and I are friends first; we practice together second.

MENTOR
Alicia Haynes ’87
Haynes & Haynes

MENTEE
Judge Shanta Owens
10th Judicial Circuit, District Court

How they met: At high school students, Shanta Owens and her twin sister, Sheree, were interested in the law. Following their mother’s advice, they sought out an attorney to shadow. When their only contacts fell through, they turned to the Yellow Pages, where they found Haynes & Haynes. Alicia Haynes introduced them to the federal and state courthouse, Chief Judge U.W. Clemson, and a host of lawyers and law clerks. They continued to meet throughout Owens’ college and law school career.

Mentee on Mentor: These people were superstars to my sister and me. I was able to see a woman in a successful attorney who took the time to give back to two children who didn’t look like her, didn’t come from her neighborhood, whom she knew nothing about. There wasn’t any hesitancy in her voice—she just said “sure, come on over.” It was pivotal for me to meet a black judge, who at the time was the chief judge. That planted the seed for me to know that you can always go higher. You never know how you can touch somebody’s life, how you can inspire someone to move forward. I try to take time out when young people call me, because someone did that for me. I want to be able to be an inspiration to someone else.

Mentor on Mentee: When this mentoring relationship started, I thought, “Ok, I am helping two high school kids out who think they want to be lawyers.” However, they had such infectious eagerness that I wanted to spend time with them and help them along in the process. I was impressed that high school students were calling and that they wanted to shadow someone before they made that big jump. I thought it was important to be a cheerleader through college law school and after they started practicing law. Now Shanta is a judge, and I cannot tell you the enormous pride I have for her accomplishment.

MENTOR
J. Mark Hart ’78
Hand Arendall, LLC

MENTEE
Khristi Doss Driver ’00
Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC

How they met: A year after graduation, Khristi Driver went to work at London & Yancey, where Mark Hart served as her supervisor. Though London & Yancey was a small firm, Hart stood out and took the initiative to teach and invest in Driver over the nine years they worked together.

Mentor on Mentee: One of the most important contributions Mark made was teaching me how to practice law. He taught me not just understanding the big goal, but keeping things moving forward on a daily basis. Mark was also generous with his clients, and has always taken a team approach to business development and relationship building. He didn’t hesitate about paying direct face-to-face time with his clients because we built a trust relationship. Because of his generosity, I learned how to interact with clients and how to develop those relationships so that I could go out and build my own. Mark encouraged me to always be myself, whether that meant community involvement or engaging in a hobby or passion.
How they met: In 1975, Wayne Morse was hired for contract work for McDaniel, Hall, Parsons & Conerly. He began writing appellate briefs for Ed Conerly, who started practicing law in 1955. Conerly taught Morse the importance of professionalism, thoroughness, preparation and execution.

Mentee on Mentor: He is and always will be a lot smarter than I am. I recognized early on that I could learn a lot from him, so I pursued his wisdom and knowledge. To this day, I still use his aphorisms in the courtroom and tell new associates the same words he told me while I was conducting legal research or discovery—“It’s there, you just haven’t found it yet.”

Mentor on Mentee: When Elizabeth Pilgrim began working at Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program [BVLP] in 2009, the organization was beginning a major restructuring. Kelli Hogue-Mauro came on as the new executive director in 2010, and together, Pilgrim and Mauro shared a passion for making BLVP bigger and better. In 2009, the BVLP opened 200 cases. In 18 months, it has more than tripled that number and has moved from one clinic a year to 16 clinics in 2011.

Mentee on Mentor: Before Kelli came on, my job was simply to take calls and decide if they qualified for our program. Under her tutelage, I began taking on more responsibilities, including increased public speaking tasks. I’ve gained self-confidence and feel comfortable addressing different groups on a variety of topics. Kelli is the reason I can do this. She’s pushed me to step out and get a little uncomfortable for what we are so passionate about. Kelli radiates positivity, enthusiasm and self-confidence, and has a sense of strength that I strive to attain. Her passion for service and belief in the BVLP has taught me to expand my expectations for not only what this program can accomplish, but what I can accomplish as well.

Mentor on Mentee: Mentoring Lauren has brought me a great new friend who has expanded my perspectives. Because of her, I have learned things that I would not have otherwise learned, both about the practice of law and family life. I had a really great mentor who encouraged me to become involved in both bar and community service. I’ve tried to take that example and continue it because I think it’s important. Mentoring helps me stay adaptable in my practice, widens my network and increases my personal satisfaction in the practice of law.
How was the initial transition from U.S. magistrate judge to dean of the law school, and what have you learned in this position?

The transition really was easy because of the people at Cumberland. It was a jump from being responsible only for your own individual caseload to being responsible for an entire community. That was the toughest part, to understand that responsibility and to understand how to exercise that responsibility.

Over the past 10 years, you have been able to attract incredible faculty members to the law school. What areas are you looking to strengthen now?

The challenge for us is to make legal education more affordable. Our focus for the next several years will be on making education more affordable by making more financial aid available for students.
The media is questioning the value of legal education in today’s economic market. How do you perceive the current and future value of a Cumberland School of Law degree?

The current Cumberland degree is an excellent value and will continue to be an excellent value in the future. I do not agree at all with the notion that law degrees are bad things to have. A law degree is a door opener for all sorts of professions. We live in a country where being a lawyer is an advantage, whether you’re a lawyer in the courtroom, the boardroom or running your own company.

The cost of a legal education has risen significantly over your time as dean. How do you leverage the quality of a Cumberland School of Law degree to attract students to the school?

One thing that students know when they come to Cumberland is that we are going to teach them how to practice law, no matter what they decide they want to do. We have students who come to us because they want that practical sort of education. The greatest selling point of our law school is the sense of community we live in a country where being a lawyer is an advantage, whether you’re a lawyer in the courtroom, the boardroom or running your own company.

The creation of the Cumberland Public Interest Fellowship Program has been very popular among students. How does this program contribute to the community and interface with the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Association?

The Public Interest Fellowship Program allows us to connect students to areas of need in public service. We had 100 students doing summer public interest fellowships, working for judges and federal defenders. Many of them assisted the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Association with their mission. Third-year student Stephen Hudgens received the Alabama State Pro Bono Award for his work with the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Association.

You have experienced one ABA site visit during your tenure, and another is coming up in the fall of 2012. Is the law school prepared for this site visit, and are you looking to make any further changes outside curriculum reform (see page 19) in preparation for this visit?

Cumberland is well prepared for our site visit, and I do not anticipate making any changes in what we are doing. I am looking forward to having the site visit team meet our remarkable faculty, staff and students, and experience firsthand the exceptional things that are happening at our law school.

You have managed to keep up your athletic prowess while serving as dean. Do you plan to keep it up?

I do plan to keep it up! I’m not having as much time to train as I need and the students keep getting faster. That’s an ominous problem; we’ve got to stop admitting students who are faster than I am.

You take on many volunteer positions, such as serving as an appeals judge in response to the BP oil disaster, serving on multiple boards, and serving on the Uniform Law Commission. In addition, you are a renowned expert on the discovery of electronically stored information. How do you manage it all, and what advice do you have for alumni and other aspiring busycorps?

Surround yourself with good people who allow you the freedom to do those sort of things. I mean that I am surrounded by incredibly good people who do their jobs in such a way that it allows me to do these things that are external to the law school, but I think are beneficial to the law school.

The Moot Courtroom is renovated thanks to a gift from Bettye and Cecil Cheves, ’74, Cumberland School of Law places first in the Regionals of the National Trial Competition.

The Cumberland Volunteer Income Tax Assistance project is named by the ABA as the best new VITA project.

The Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award is endowed by Richard Flies and the generosity of Joe T. Malugen ’77.

The widely published Stephen Hudgens joins the faculty. He examines constitutional law—specifically the Second Amendment. Denning is also coauthor of a book on how to become a law professor.

Judge John Carroll succeeds Professor Mike Floyd as the 19th dean of the law school. Belle Stoddard ’78 joins the faculty to teach legal research and writing, and appellate practice courses. Her Southern manner and wit are well respected among first-year students.

Cecil Cheves and Judge Carroll, both 1974 graduates, were law school friends and moot court competition participants. Carroll won the spring 1972 rounds of the Gordon T. Saad Moot Court Competition in the same courtroom that now bears his name. Cheves placed first in the competition the following fall.

The naming of the courtroom underscores Cheves’ appreciation for Carroll’s leadership in the law school and his previous involvement as a student.

Prior to becoming dean of Cumberland School of Law, Carroll was a U.S. magistrate judge in the Middle District of Alabama for 14 years.
**Continuing a Tradition of Excellence**

Trial Advocacy Program remains strong in the pursuit to train competent and ethical advocates.

Non the very beginning, Cumberland School of Law has been known for its strong emphasis on trial advocacy. It has developed a reputation as one of the strongest programs in the United States, ranking as No. 5 Trial Advocacy Program in the 2011 U.S. News & World Report of Best Law Schools.

The law school recognizes that advocacy training is important because it teaches students to marshal facts into coherent arguments and to think on their feet. Those skills are important whether one is a courtroom lawyer, a lawyer who represents clients in mediation and arbitration, or one who represents clients in major financial transactions, or one who represents clients in intellectual property and internet privacy.

Law offers a curriculum that fully prepares them to try jury cases from the moment they graduate. In their first year, students are exposed to advocacy in evidence and LLR, and are offered the opportunity to

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Wendy Greene joins the faculty. Her research interests include employment discrimination and race relations. She is working to further the law school’s relationship with the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.

Dayna Royal joins the faculty. She focuses on first amendment law, media law and complex commercial litigation. Her popular articles on current media topics have garnered national attention.

Alumni giving percentage reaches 15%, up 7% from 2002.

The law school recognizes that a “Best Value School of Law” as recognized by the National Jurist magazine.

Woody Hartzog ’02 joins the faculty. He returns to the law school as an expert in intellectual property and internet privacy.

The law school partners with NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, India, to create a semester study abroad Indian exchange program.

The law school boasts the largest bar passage rate in the past decade: 94.73%.

The law school’s BLSA is named Chapter of the Year by the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association.

The Advanced Trial Advocacy class is limited to 12 students and is the ultimate in trial skills training.

Kris Gray came to the law school for its strong trial program, a decision that has served her well.

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**Alyssa DiRusso joins the faculty. Her research interests include wills, trusts, intestacy and tax-exempt charitable organizations. Her creative approach to teaching gives students true-to-life client experiences.**

**LaJuana Davis joins the faculty. She regularly lends her expertise to pro bono cases ranging from minor criminal violations to death penalty appeals, focusing on the areas of appellate advocacy and criminal law.**

**Greg Laughlin joins the faculty. He gained immediate popularity as the law library director by allowing food and drink in the law library. His research interest is in cyber law.**

**Brewer Plaza is renovated and dedicated in honor of Martha F. and Albert P. Brewer.**

**Carroll hires Rusty Johnson, who brings his experience representing litigants in class and collective actions to the classroom.**

**Gillian Marie Johnson, who returns to the law school as an expert in intellectual property and internet privacy.**

**The Family Court Paternity Docket Pilot Project is established to allow law students to aid Jefferson County Family Court in the administration of the paternity and support docket.**

**Carroll has served her well.**

**Robinson Hall is renovated and the state-of-the-art Advanced Advocacy Courtroom is created.**

**The law school partners with Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge to create the Cambridge study abroad program.**

**Carroll also hires Rusty Johnson, who brings his experience representing litigants in class and collective actions to the classroom.**

**The Cumberland School of Law Paternity Docket Pilot Project is established to allow law students to aid Jefferson County Family Court in the administration of the paternity and support docket.**

**Cumberland School of Law has partnered with NALSAR University of Law in Hyderabad, India, to create the Semester Study Abroad Indian Exchange Program.**

**Alumni giving percentage reaches 15%, up 7% from 2002.**

**The law school recognizes that the Cumberland School of Law as one of the strongest programs in the United States, ranking No. 5 in Trial Advocacy Program in the 2011 U.S. News & World Report of Best Law Schools.**

**The Advanced Trial Advocacy class is limited to 12 students and is the ultimate in trial skills training.**
School of Law's offerings now include a curriculum that has expanded to reflect the high standards of knowledge they teach themselves," said Don Cochran, a veteran of the program. "We are doing things done well, and then doing it better in the Cumberland approach to learning is that it is unique for two reasons: the curriculum is covered in the courses. "We know all of the courses the students have taken, we know the evidence and criminal procedure aspects, and we are here every day, so as students are getting ready for their next class, they can consult with us," said Young.

Adjunct professors are utilized in the second year Basic Skills in Trial Advocacy course, working with full-time faculty members to teach students all the components of a jury trial. These adjunct professors usually have extensive hands-on experiences in small groups. "The Cumberland approach to learning is that students learn best by first seeing something done well, and then doing it themselves," said Don Cochran, a professor in the Trial Advocacy Program.

Over the years, the trial advocacy curriculum has expanded to reflect the changing needs of the profession. While the Cumberland School of Law's offerings now include Alternative Dispute Resolution, Mediation, Negotiation, Digital Evidence, and the Advanced Trial Advocacy class. Limited to 12 students, with selection based on merit, this course is the ultimate in trial skills training.

Every time a student completes the course, there are more than just the skills—they have a level of confidence that is invaluable in today's legal arena. "I've talked to other people who have transferred from Cumberland to other law schools," said Gray, "and they say the education, both trial-wise and otherwise, is not comparable. The professors and adjuncts who have us at top-notch. We have U.S. attorneys teaching us, federal judges coming to judge our competitions, and we have top-notch coaches for our trial and ADR programs."

Gray will join the U.S. Marine Corps JAG in October and will fulfill her lifelong dream of practicing in the courtroom. Though she is only a few months out of school, she is confident of her abilities and is eager to represent clients. "I learned so much here," she said. "I know what I'm doing. That's the best skill I've learned—to not show my nerves."

I am very happy to see the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [SACS], which accredits Samford, meanwhile, largely acquired in the ABA's assessment of law schools. In recent years, however, SACS has shifted its accreditation standards to focus on outputs rather than inputs. More importantly for Cumberland School of Law, SACS and other regional agencies have begun to require evaluations of law schools using those same output standards. SACS seeks to evaluate outputs by requiring schools to do three main things: articulate what students should know and be able to do when they graduate; define a mechanism to measure whether students achieve those learning objectives; and designate a system for gathering feedback to modify and revise curriculum accordingly. The ABA has proposed measures to adopt similar accrediting standards.

The law school's objective is to prepare students to graduate as highly qualified beginning practicing lawyers. To design a curriculum that supports this objective, administrators recognize that in addition to current faculty, alumni and practitioners must be involved in the process. "The practice of law has changed significantly since we [faculty] have been out there," said Strickland, "particularly in the business aspects. We want to hear from alumni and practitioners about what students should know and be able to do, and what attributes and values they should have when they walk out the door."

"We get top-notch externs from the Trial Advocacy Program, students who are ready to be trial lawyers," said Bill North '86 with the Bessemer District Attorney's Office. "We give them an opportunity to polish their skills with real, daily courtroom experience. When those students complete the curriculum, they have more than just the skills—they have a level of confidence that is invaluable in today's legal arena."
This year, the faculty will discuss proposals
Strickland has been working to organize
uled for July 2011. Since their conclusion,
legal education that is relevant to the
ongoing efforts and obvious commitment
to provide the required knowledge, skills
and values to law students. That task is not
easy or quick, nor without some

3. What other knowledge (other than law) should all law
familiar when they graduate from law school?

5. What is on your short list of things about the practice of
law you wish somebody at your school had told you when you
were a law student?

6. What things are important to successful law practice that
cannot be taught in law school?

Your Name                    Field of Expertise
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
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The Cumberland National Alumni
Association welcomed 145 new
members on May 13, 2011.
Graduating students hailed from as
far as Tacoma, Wash., and
families from across the United States
gathered to celebrate the milestone in
these graduates’ lives.

Following a reception in the Great
Room of Robinson Hall, members of the
Class of 2011 processed to Wright Center
on the campus of Samford University, led
by four bagpipers.

The graduates were addressed by
Alabama Congresswoman Martha Roby
'01, who urged them to give a high priority
to public service in their careers and to be
ready for such opportunities.

The call may come when you least
expect it,” Roby told graduates, “and it
doesn’t necessarily mean elective office.

Public service is something beyond charity,
and it’s an essential part of American life.”
A Montgomery, Ala., native who
represents Alabama’s Second
Congressional District and serves on the
House Armed Services Committee, Roby is
the daughter of Chief Judge of the 11th
Circuit Court of Appeals Joel P. Dubina
’73. He served as Cumberland School of
Law’s commencement speaker in 2002.
During commencement exercises, the
Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism
Award was presented to graduate Zachary
La Fleur of Tucson, Ariz. The award was
established by law school professor
and former Alabama Governor Albert Brewer
in memory of his father. Given to a
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Roby Addresses 2011 Graduates

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The darkness of late evening began closing in on the old train station at the northern edge of India’s capital. Flickering lights cast an eerie glow through the massive brick structure as the station yawned under the weariness of another hot, busy day. Platforms stood mostly empty as the last several trains of the day traversed quietly through.

I pulled my phone out of my pocket and glanced at the time: “22:15.” I felt tired after a long day of travel. I had departed Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, at 4:40 a.m. and arrived in Delhi at 7:30 p.m. I spent the next 14 hours hiking the streets of Delhi with 25 pounds of luggage on my back, enjoying the old city even in the intense heat.

After spending more than four months in India and interacting with people at virtually every level of society, I still felt oddly disconnected. Though I had experienced much of India’s rich culture and history; observed firsthand the abject poverty, filth and congestion; and developed numerous friendships with the resilient people, India seemed more dream than reality. I felt as though I was viewing photos in a magazine or on television back in the United States. India had not yet hit home.

Under the gray cloak of dim station lights and the late hour, I saw not a young, dirty, poor Indian boy selling papad, but my own little brother living this same hard life. My eyes teared as I watched this child who had likely been up since early morning, selling food at this filthy train station, and was still working hard at 10:15 p.m.

The boy turned to depart and was immediately called by a man who had likely been up since early morning, selling food at this filthy train station, and was still working hard at 10:15 p.m. He turned to depart and was immediately called by a man who had likely been up since early morning, selling food at this filthy train station, and was still working hard at 10:15 p.m.

As I observed the boy’s expressions slowly approaching. He must have been 9 or 10 years old, stocky, but his grimy clothes and dirty appearance marked him as one of India’s countless poor. He continued to approach with sheepish and awkward hesitation. Seconds later, he quickly scooped up the basket. I assumed he was unloading the “abandoned” food for himself, but as he pulled the basket strap over his shoulder, I realized that he was selling papad to passengers.

The boy turned to depart and was immediately called by a man who had just taken a seat on a bench behind me. Not wanting to miss a sale, the boy approached the man and prepared a papad.

As I observed the boy’s expressions and studied his mannerisms, he reminded me of my younger brother. Under the gray cloak of dim station lights and the late hour, I saw not a young, dirty, poor Indian boy selling papad, but my own little brother living this same hard life. My eyes teared as I watched this child who had likely been up since early morning, selling food at this filthy train station, and was still working hard at 10:15 p.m.

There, sitting on Platform 6 of the Old Delhi station, India finally hit home for me. I had observed many poor people who lived unimaginably difficult lives. Yet, this boy made me think of one of my own family facing the same daily hardships. While I likely will never see the Indian boy again, I have him to thank for making India, and the needs of the Indian people, hit home for me. His face will always remain in my mind as a sobering reminder of the undeserved blessing God has showered on my life and the lives of my fellow Americans.

My four-month stay in India, through Cumberland School of Law’s foreign exchange program, was a life-changing experience. Although not for the faint in heart, studying in India provided me with an unparalleled opportunity for spiritual, professional, academic, and cultural growth.

I arrived at NALSAR, University of Law in Hyderabad, India, on Dec. 29, 2010, and spent the semester studying General International Law, Human Rights Law, Humanitarian Law, and Law and Poverty. NALSAR has been dubbed as one of the most incredible experience of my law school tenure. It is an opportunity that I would encourage other law school and Sanford students to embrace. I owe a great deal of thanks to the administration at Cumberland School of Law and Sanford University, as well as to my supervising professors, family and friends for the support, encouragement and prayers during my travels. I will be forever thankful to God for the experience he provided me in India during this past spring semester.”

Matthew Brown spent his final semester at NALSAR University of Law and graduated from Cumberland School of Law in May. He practices with Milam & Milam, LLC, in Pensacola, Fla., and is engaged to be married next May. Under a cooperative arrangement with Sanford and NALSAR, an Indian student has the opportunity to study at Cumberland School of Law and an American student at NALSAR each semester. Cumberland School of Law recently said goodbye to Sunetra Ravindran, the second exchange student to participate in the program. For more information on the law school’s international programs, go to www.cumberland. samford.edu/foreign-programs.
Letter from your Alumni Association President

Who is Harry Phillips?

Harry Phillips was a graduate of Cumberland School of Law, Class of 1933. He had no intention of becoming a lawyer; his life’s ambition was to be a journalist. It was not so much that law school changed his mind about his ambition; rather, it was a series of fortuitous circumstances, coupled with the guidance of his legal mentor, Robert Forrester, that led Phillips to forgo journalism for the practice of law.

Phillips entered the private practice of law with Forrester in his home town of Watertown, Tenn. After serving two terms in the legislature, he joined the attorney general of Tennessee, thereafter served as a judge, general counsel, and general during World War II, and later entered private practice in Nashville, Tenn., until the call came in 1963 to join the court.

Upon the recommendation of Senator Albert Gore, Sr., and the Cumberland University alumnus, Phillips accepted the nomination of President John F. Kennedy to serve as judge on the Sixth Circuit United States Court of Appeals. He served on that court for many years, rising to be chief judge in 1969. He also authored law review articles, scholarly treatises and several books, primarily in the fields of his legal expertise.

Several years after the law school moved from Lebanon, Tenn., to its present location, Judge Phillips, in April of 1964, made one of the addresses commemorating the dedication of Memory Leak Robinson Hall. Paraphrasing the words of his patron, President Kennedy, Phillips might have termed the transition between campuses as “the torch being passed to a new generation of Cumberland lawyers.”

Phillips authored numerous opinions on the Sixth Circuit, some of which reflected the very difficult school desegregation issues of the early 1970s. Other opinions reflected his brilliant legal analysis in areas such as patent appeals. In 1985, after taking senior status, Phillips suffered an untimely death while attending an American Bar Associationfunction in London, England, where he was struck by a car at a crosswalk. Five years later, he was memorialized in the creation of Nashville’s first Inn of Court, which today still bears his name.

What does the life of Harry Phillips have to do with a lawyer and a judge from North Carolina who, like Phillips, is proud of his Cumberland heritage? I never personally knew Phillips, but I did see his reflection in several North Carolinians. The first reflection was found in my longtime friend and mentor, the Hon. Sid Eagles, chief judge (retired) of the North Carolina Court of Appeals. I never met a more ethical or scholarly judge. I am proud to call him friend. Only very recently did I learn that Chief Judge Eagles’ father-in-law was Phillips. Eagles’ wife, Rachel, was the twin daughter of Phillips.

Rachel Eagles, too, has been an exemplary citizen and contributor to numerous civic causes during the course of many years in Wake County. Sid and Rachel’s daughter, Margaret, sits as a district court judge in Wake County. Several years ago, she litigated before me a complex environmental case, which was one of her first trials.

Another scholar who reflects Phillips and whom I greatly admire is Professor Charles Daye, the first African American tenured faculty member at the University of North Carolina Law School.

In my opinion, Daye is the foremost academic expert in the field of state administrative law and the one who authored the seminal law review article on North Carolina’s Administrative Procedure Act. Judge Phillips appointed Daye as his law clerk, the first African American to serve as a law clerk on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. These traditions of excellence are carried on the shoulders of all who practice law as Cumberland School of Law graduates. They require us to recognize and emulate those who came before us, like Phillips. Looking down upon us today, perhaps Phillips might say, “The torch has been passed to a new generation of Cumberland Lawyers, who are now burdened with the professional responsibility of preserving these rich traditions.”

If you look around at those who reflect these traditions, whom do you see? You are bound to see the law school’s dean and faculty. Like the phoenix that arose from the ashes when the law school moved to Birmingham, these professors, who are without peer anywhere in this country, are preparing a new generation of Cumberland Lawyers for the practice of law and who will expect these new lawyers to carry forward the admonishment of Harry Phillips into the new millennium.

I pledge to do all that I can to uphold these goals as your national alumni president, and I give thanks for the torch that has been passed to me by last year’s president, Leonora Pete, who embodies the finest of these traditions. Together, we expect all alumni to honor the traditions of Cumberland School of Law, which in case you might not know, is the finest law school that has ever existed.

Julian Mann ’74
National Alumni President

Letter from your Director of Alumni

Harry Phillips

Fifty years ago, in 1961, Cumberland School of Law moved from Lebanon, Tenn., and convened its first class in Birmingham, Ala. At that time, John F. Kennedy was president, and a gallon of gas was 31 cents and the Dow reached a high of 734. We’ve come a long way in the last 50 years, and our alumni and students continue to outperform the norms and averages.

On April 14, 2012, we will celebrate our 50 years in Birmingham. All alumni will be invited to visit the school, show their families where they sat in class, find their composite picture, see the immense display of trophies from various competitions, and just have a great day reminiscing. In a few months, look for announcements about this special day. The faculty and staff would like to see you again as well.

Over the past several months, I’ve thoroughly enjoyed meeting alumni across the Southeast. From Jackson, Miss., to Ashville and Charlotte, N.C., from Huntsville to Valdosta, Ala., and down to Orlando, Fla.—I never get tired of meeting such interesting people and hearing about our graduates’ careers and lives (I’m still lobbying the deans for an alumni event in Hawaii—maybe next year.) The Cumberland Alumni Association deserves to celebrate our network, achievements, share stories and hear about the school’s current goals. In the meantime, crack open your window and hear about the school’s current goals.

Reunion Weekend 2011

Reunion Weekend 2011 was held March 25-26 and was a smashing success! With a golf tournament, dinner gala at the Birmingham Museum of Art, family picnic and class party all on the grounds, the reunion added $76,388, $93,396, ‘01 and ’06 had plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends and reconnect. Cam Ward ’96 was named Young Alumnus of the Year and board Bishop ’71 was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. More than $4,500 was raised during the Friday night silent auction, with all proceeds going toward the Student Public Interest Fellowship Program. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this wonderful weekend!

Upcoming Alumni Events

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 11</td>
<td>Huntsville Alumni Luncheon</td>
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<td>Oct. 12</td>
<td>Tuscaloosa Alumni Luncheon</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Nashville Alumni Recess</td>
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<td>Oct. 18</td>
<td>Montgomery Alumni Recess</td>
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<td>Oct. 25</td>
<td>Birmingham Young Alumni Recess</td>
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Reunion Weekend 2011

Cam Ward ’96
National Alumni President

Examples of Excellence

Examples of Excellence were carried on the shoulders of all who practice law as Cumberland School of Law graduates. They require us to...
feel very fortunate to have obtained an outstanding summer internship with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama. I had the opportunity to work alongside an amazing group of federal prosecutors whose work I admire and respect.

This internship required me to apply my law school studies to real-life situations and enabled me to start building skills that are instrumental in the practice of law. The Career Development Office (CDO) was a great help to me throughout my job search, providing me with the information and training that I used to obtain this position.

Like that of most law students, my job search was a time-consuming process. It required drafting a strong legal résumé, learning about legal practice areas and job opportunities in those areas, extensively preparing for interviews, and networking with attorneys. The CDO presented educational programs that prepared me for each of these tasks.

I also took advantage of opportunities to learn from and interact with practicing attorneys through the Lunch with a Lawyer program, the mock interview initiative, and other programs the CDO hosts to engage students with alumni and the broader legal community. Collectively, these activities crystallized my path and interests—which led me to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama in Birmingham.

The internship with the U.S. Attorney's Office was an enriching experience. For six weeks, other summer associates and I discussed noteworthy cases with assistant United States attorneys. We conducted legal research and writing assignments on evidentiary and procedural issues. We also frequently visited the United States Courthouse to observe legal proceedings, including initial appearances, hearings and trials. In addition, we participated in field trips where we met, conversed with and learned from esteemed government officials. The internship provided a representative cross-section of the work the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Alabama performs on a regular basis.

Legal analysis, research and writing skills were critical for my internship. Fortunately, Cumberland School of Law's rigorous first-year curriculum effectively prepared me, and I felt comfortable I was ready for the work. My professors did an outstanding job teaching us how to analyze cases, and draw parallels and distinctions between them. My Lawyering and Legal Reasoning class provided extensive and thorough training in legal research, and oral and written advocacy. A professional work ethic was also very important in the U.S. Attorney's Office.

I have my wonderful professors and the Cumberland School of Law family (including several alumni I met) to thank for exhibiting and reinforcing the important attributes of thorough preparation and a commitment to excellence inside and outside the classroom. I extend my sincere thanks to each and every one of them. This helped me be a more productive intern and made my internship experience a more rewarding one.
FOCUS ON FACULTY
Introducing Woody Hartzog

Carroll Craig Conner Floyd Debow Greene

August 2010 through June 30, 2011

Cumberland School of Law is proud to introduce the newest addition to its faculty, Woodrow “Woody” Hartzog. A graduate of the Class of 2002, Hartzog is excited to return to his alma mater. “While I was a student, I received incredible support and excellent classroom instruction from the faculty. Their guidance played a pivotal role in my legal career and my choice to become a professor,” he said. “I am honored to join them.”

Hartzog begins the fall semester teaching Payment Systems, and will expand his course load in the spring semester to teach Intellectual Property and a seminar on Internet Privacy.

“Woody’s hire, as are all our hires, was the result of a national search,” said Dean John Carroll. “What really attracted us to Woody was when we talked with the people who had come into contact with him in his graduate programs. They identified him as absolutely one of the rising young scholars in the field of internet privacy.”

Currently a Ph.D candidate in mass communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Hartzog is a leading expert in internet privacy law, online communications and electronic agreements. He has been widely published in law reviews and peer-reviewed publications such as the American University Law Review, Journal of Intellectual Property Law, Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review and Communication Law and Policy.

“I have been fascinated by privacy and technology since I was a student at Cumberland,” Hartzog said. In his dissertation, he explores when the law, social norms, market forces and technology all affect our notions of privacy,” he said. Hartzog holds an LL.M. in intellectual property from George Washington University Law School and received his B.A. from Sanford University. He was also selected as a Junior Affiliate Scholar at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School, and will remain an affiliate through 2012.

Hartzog and his wife, Jen, reside in Birmingham with their 3-year-old son Will. Jen is also Sanford graduate (B.A. ’99). Hartzog enjoys playing guitar, cooking and reading dinosaur books with Will 2.

Cassandra Adams served on a panel at the 2011 Gilvary Symposium. The panel examined “Children and the Use of Mediation and Other Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution.”

Brad Bishop’s latest journal article, “Municipal Safe Streets Act: To Tow or Not to Tow—That is the Question,” was published in The Alabama Municipal Journal. The 2010 supplement to Bishop’s book, The Prosecution and Defense of DUI Cases, is now available. As chair of the Supreme Court Advisory Commission on Municipal Courts, Bishop chaired and presented two sessions, “Anonymous Tips in DUI Cases” and “Forensic Analysis and the Right to Confrontation.” Bishop was the chair and speaker of the Nov. 12 CLE Program “DUI Practice in Alabama: From Arrest to Appeal”.

John Carroll was named a member of the National Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court and has been named a commissioner of the Uniform Law Commission, and the reporter to the Uniform Law Commission Asset Freezing Order Drafting Committee. He acted as facilitator at the ABA’s Advanced Mediation Program in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Nov. 18 and was appointed as an appeals judge for the Gulf Coast Claims Facility in response to the BP oil disaster.

Linda Connor was appointed to the Alabama Law Institute’s Nonprofit Corporation Committee. The committee is reviewing the Model Nonprofit Act, drafted by the ABA, and will make recommended changes to Alabama’s Nonprofit Corporation Law to the Legislature.

Ed Craig, Becky Hutto and Greg Laughlin attended the fall meeting of the Law Libraries Associations of Alabama. Laughlin, association president, presided, and Craig, association treasurer, gave a report of finances.

LaJuana Davis participated in the Florida Legal Scholarship Forum Nov. 13, a conference devoted to the presentation and development of works in progress of junior faculty members.

Mike DeBow presented a paper Nov. 18 on insurance bad faith litigation to a conference sponsored by the State Civil Justice Institute at George Mason University. On March 14, he lectured on “The Affordable Care Act Meets the Principle of Enumerated Powers” at Oglethorpe University and presented a paper on “Austrian Economics and American Tort Law” to a conference at George Mason University School of Law April 15.

Brannon Denning was a guest on WHYY’s morning talk show, Radio Times, in Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 4, discussing health-care litigation.

Alyssa DiRussO presented “The Reason Why Retirement is Preferable to Death Taxes” as part of a panel on “Retirement Planning: From the Last Day of Work to the Last Day of Life” at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools in Palm Beach, Fla., Aug. 3.

Mike Floyd traveled to São Paulo and Fortaleza, Brazil, April 23–29. He met with current, former and prospective students, and officials in Cumberland School of Law’s partner institutions. He spoke in São Paulo at the Tribunal de Justiça Militar and at the Faculdades Metropolitanas Udescas. He directed the June-study for Master of Comparative Law Program (MCL) for students from Brazil and Nigeria in Birmingham, and directed the July 2011 study abroad program for J.D. and M.C.L. students at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, United Kingdom.


Greene’s article, “Title VII: What’s Hair
(and Other Race-Based Characteristics) Got To Do with It?” was cited by the Chicago Commission on Human Rights in two public accommodations cases, and an excerpt of her article was included in the third edition of Race Law: Cases Commentary and Questions. During the Third National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, Greene moderated and served on a panel examining appearance codes in the workplace. She served as a member of the Conference Planning Committee and as a cochair of the Works-as-Progress program. On Oct. 23, 2010, Greene presented “Paradoxes of Perception,” one of five papers selected for the Fifth Annual Seton Hall Employment and Labor Law Scholar Forum. She served as vice chair of the Joint Meeting of the Southeast/ Southwestern and Midwestern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conferences held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., March 31–April 3, and also served as moderator and panelist for the Employment and Equality panel.

Pattie Harris, director of Law Student Records, won the third annual Cumberland School of Law Staff Appreciation Award. Award recipients are student-selected.

Paul Kuruk chaired an international program in Accra, Ghana, Nov. 1–2, on the establishment of a regional competition authority to regulate activities of private and public enterprises in West Africa. He proceeded to Geneva, Switzerland, where he reviewed proposals regarding exceptions and limitations to the rights of authors of literary and artistic works, and drafted parts of an international instrument developed by the World Intellectual Organization to facilitate access to copyrighted materials by persons with disabilities, educational and research institutions, and libraries and archives centers.

David Langum’s book, Crossing Over the Line: Legitimizing Morality and the Mann Act, was cited by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals as authority to support a particular interpretation of one provision of the Mann Act.

Tracy T. Miller was appointed by the Alabama State Bar President to the Editorial Board of The Alabama Lawyer.


David Smolin participated in a program titled “Stolen Children: Illegal Practices in Intercountry Adoption and the Need for Reform” presented by the UNROW Human Rights Impact Litigation Clinic April 4.


Belle Howe Stoddard was re-elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of the Alabama Women’s Hall of Fame at Judson College during the fall board meeting. She has served as the representative of law on the board since the 1980s.

Kathy Walton, administrative assistant to Judge Carroll, won the third annual Cumberland School of Law Staff Appreciation Award. Award recipients are student-selected.

LaVone Warren was appointed to the Planning Committee for the midyear meeting of the Association for CLE, which was held Jan. 22–25 in San Francisco, Calif.

Deborah Young taught the summer course on Evidence at Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Vt., during July and August.

Donaldson Publishes Autobiography

Donaldson, a 31-year veteran of the Alabama Court of Appeals, was recently named a fellow of the National Association on Mental Illness. He has served as president of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and will serve a two-year term.

R. A. “Sonny” Ferguson, a retired circuit judge, joined Christian & Small LLP’s ADR practice group.

David K. Howard was named a 2010 fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Troy H. Myers, Jr., a shareholder of Merrill, Collins, Timm, Furin & Ginsburg, PA, won the Florida Bar President’s Award for Pro Bono Service for 2011 for the 12th Judicial Circuit.

Marion A. Quina, Jr., joined Burr & Forman’s Mobile, Ala., office as counsel.

Bruce Williams, Madison County circuit judge, retired at the end of August.

Byard Bower accepted the position of director of contract management, Fluor Federal Government Group, at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

C. Richard Johnson III was named a 2010 fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Rodney Max is a charter member of the Alabama chapter of The National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

Miles A. McGrane III, a partner with the law firm of McGrane, Nosich & Ganz, was named chair for the second two-year term of the Judicial Qualifications Commission. He will cochair a 30-member commission on review of the discipline systems of the Florida Bar.

John E. Northcutt will retire Aug. 31 after nearly 38 years with Robertson Banking Company.

Joe Ritch, an attorney with Sinti & Perman, P.C., serves on the boards of the University of Alabama, the Huntsville-Madison Chamber of Commerce, Sci-Quest, the Alabama Space Camp Foundation and the UAH Emminent Scholars Foundation. He is a member of the Tennessee Valley Reclamation and Closure Committee. Ritch founded the UAH Chargers Ice Hockey team and was inducted to the Huntsville-Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame April 13.

Marcella Auerbach, managing partner of Nolan & Auerbach, P.A., spoke at the University of Miami 2011 Law Review Symposium on health-care fraud Feb. 18 during the opening panel discussion.

John G. Beard was named to the 2011 Birminghham Business Association board of directors.

Wayne Morse, with Waldrep Stewart Kendrick, LLC, was selected to serve as Alabama Chair of the Council on Litigation Management.

Helen Nelson is acting director of New Mexico’s income support division.

Betsy Sue Scott was elected president of the Virginia Women Attorneys’ Association Loudoun chapter.

James F. Walsh, a partner at Ramseyer Kirk & Caldwell, was elected president of the Alabama chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and will serve a two-year term.

Through Aug. 25, 2011

1951
Harry Witters, Jr., a retired Baldwin County Circuit Judge, was honored by the Baldwin County Commission with the naming of the bridge over Fly Creek on Baldwin County 13 in his name.

1968
William Wilkes was a retiring as circuit court judge of Clay County in Green Cove Springs, Fla.

1969
Skip Ames is an associate dean of Sorell College of Business of Troy University in Dothan, Ala.

1975
Byard Bower accepted the position of director of contract management, Fluor Federal Government Group, at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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C. Richard Johnson III was named a 2010 fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Helen Nelson is acting director of New Mexico’s income support division.

Betsy Sue Scott was elected president of the Virginia Women Attorneys’ Association Loudoun chapter.

James F. Walsh, a partner at Ramseyer Kirk & Caldwell, was elected president of the Alabama chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and will serve a two-year term.
Romaine S. Scott III, an attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Reddick LLC, was named to the bankruptcy committee of the Baldwin County Bar Association.

Judge William Bruce Smith was elected to become the newest chief judge for the 10th Judicial Circuit, which covers Polk, Highland and Harder counties in Florida.

Raymond E. Wehrmann joined the law firm of Narragansett, Rector & Norwegian as counsel. He is a charter member of the Florida chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

First District Court Judge Ronald T. Henry retired after 24 years with the United States Attorney’s Office, Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division.

J. Allen Schreiber was named a 2010 fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Greg Snell, Alabama Circuit Judge, was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. He will work in the international unit as part of a new Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, targeting proceeds of large-scale foreign official corruption.

Bill Rastelli is a charter member of the Alabama chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

Raymond E. Wehrmann joined the law firm of Narragansett, Rector & Norwegian as counsel. He is a charter member of the Florida chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

Lynda K. Walker recently became executive director and general counsel to the Tax Court and Tax Court Policy Council.

Tim Crocker was elected a fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation.

N. Gunter Guy, Jr., was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley as commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and by President Barack Obama as state representative, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

Judge Michael A. Fournet was appointed to a second three-year term as a supervisory council member of the American Bar Association’s Real Property, Trust & Estate Section.

R. Donald Word III was named a 2010 fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Michael A. Anderson joined the Chattanooga law firm of Patrick, Beard, Schultman & Jacoway, P.C.

Katherine Barr, an attorney with Snell & Permutt, was appointed to a second three-year term as a supervisory council member of the American Bar Association’s Real Property, Trust & Estate Section.

Barton Proctor & Rose LLP as counsel.

Robert F. Northcutt was named assistant to the president of Alfa Insurance companies, but will work in the international unit as part of a new Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, targeting proceeds of large-scale foreign official corruption.

Robert P. MacKenzie III was named a 2010 fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

David L. Manz is chair of the Florida Bar Family Law Section.

Russell Neighbors was reelected to represent Pleasant Gardens on the McDowell Board of Education in Marion, N.C.

J. Allen Schreiber was named a fellow of the National Registry of Historic Places.

He will work in the international unit as part of a new Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, targeting proceeds of large-scale foreign official corruption.

Bill Rastelli is a charter member of the American chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

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Through June 30, 2011

Deborah Susan Braden ’83 died Sept. 25, 2010. She served as chair of the Birmingham Bar Association Scholarship Committee and on the Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association. She was cochair of the Jefferson County Bar Association Community Education Committee. Braden served as counsel for Gifts, Inc., a nonprofit organization providing gifts for terminally or chronically ill and abused children. She attended the School of Theology in Swanner at the University of the South and received a master of divinity in 2004. She was ordained in the Episcopal Church, and served in the parishes of St. Matthias in Tuscaloosa and St. Mary’s on-the-Highlands in Birmingham.

Reid Brodgen ’89 of Nashville, Tenn., died Dec. 29, 2010. He was general counsel for the Tennessee Health Services and Development Agency.

David Raymond Cole ’51 of Nashville, Tenn., died Aug. 23 at the age of 82. He spent his career working in the property and casualty insurance industry. In 1964, he was awarded the Chartered Property and casualty insurance industry. In 1964, he was awarded the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation.

Edwin Davis Cooper ’71, age 65, died Sept. 29, 2010. He was an attorney, and taught at Mid-South Community College and East Arkansas Community College.

Charles W. Cope IV ’74 died March 31, 2011.

Deane Corliss ’89, chair of the firm’s Health Care Practice, died March 31, 2011, after fighting cancer for more than two years. He was an attorney, and was a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation. In 1990, Congressmen Robert Aderholt was elected to serve as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

George Walton Walker III joined Pope, McGlamry, Kilpatrick, Morrison & Norwood LLP as a partner. He was elected president of the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys and named a 2010 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Barbara Kelley is president-elect and community relations director on the board of directors for the Assistance League of Birmingham.

William A. McBride joined Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz in the firm’s Atlanta, Ga., office as a member of the business litigation practice group.

Judge Shonna Young Gay was appointed to a judgeship in the 14th Judicial Circuit.

Coleen D. Hosack joined the firm of Freeman Matthews & Gary, LLP as an associate in the government law practice of the firm.

Brian Hogue-Mauro was named academic chair of the Preston Judicial Circuit.

Kelli Hogue-Mauro was named academic chair of the Preston Judicial Circuit.

Judge James H. Roberts, Jr., was appointed circuit judge for Tuscaloosa County by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley.

Ashley T. Senn joined Gault & Hendrix in counsel.

Robert A. Boland, a faculty member of New York University School of Continuing Professional Studies, was named academic chair of the Preston Robert Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism, and Sport Management.

Mary Ann Ezell is a named partner at Miller Ezell & Maloney, P.C. in Orlando, Fla., and serves as public relations director of the Central Florida Tourism, and Sports Management.

Michael Fish, an attorney with Fish Nelson, LLC, was recently selected as one of LexisNexis’ “Workers’ Compensation Notable People” for 2010.

Mike Jenne was elected a fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation.

Judge Tristan R. Armer was nominated by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council to serve on its Southeastern Data Assessment and Review [SEDMAR] Advisory Panel.

Alícia Bennett is cochair of the Alabama Bar CLE and Membership Criteria Task Force.

Jason William Gumula married Morgan Michelle Tuckness Nov. 6, 2010.
2009
Shaun Decoudres was elected shareholder in the Birmingham office of Carr Allison.

Wes Etheredge is an attorney with Kenneth S. Nugent, P.C., Attorneys at Law, in Huntsville, Ala.

William J. Luse opened the Law Office of William J. Luse in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Samantha Smith joined the Birmingham office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart P.C.

W. Chris Waller, Jr. is secretary of the Young Lawyers’ Section of the Alabama State Bar.

2010
Crystal Boudreaux is an assistant district attorney for Blount County.

Rodney E. Miller is a member of the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers’ Section of the Alabama State Bar.

Congresswoman Martha Roby was featured as a “Rising Star of the GOP” by NPIR correspondent Corey Dade.

Latanishia D. Watters, an attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Redkker, LLC, was named vice chair and newsletter editor of the Staff Council Committee with the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association. In addition, she has been named as a member of the section’s Standing Committee on Diversity in the Profession. Watters was elected as the 2010-11 Assembly Clerk of the ABA Young Lawyers Division and was named one of Birmingham’s “Top 40 Under 40” by the Birmingham Business Journal.

2002
Kent Alltom was named managing partner of the Georgia and Alabama litigation and trial practice group of the law firm Callaway Rayner LLC.

James A. Barnes IV is an attorney with Patterson Gilchrist LLC in Raleigh, N.C.

Luther P. Crull III is an attorney with Davis, Miller & Keberle LLP in Fairmont, W.Va.

Lawrence H. Pate Jr. is secretary of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law as cochair of the section’s Board of Governors Committee with the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association. In addition, he has been named as a member of the section’s Standing Committee on Diversity in the Profession. Watters was elected as the 2010-11 Assembly Clerk of the ABA Young Lawyers Division and was named one of Birmingham’s “Top 40 Under 40” by the Birmingham Business Journal.

2001
Merideth McCollum Aldridge serves as director of the Consumer Protection Division of the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office.

Gordon L. Blair was elected shareholder in the Birmingham office of Ogletree Deakins.

Brandy M. Burnette joined the firm of Milligan & Coleman in Greenville, Tenn.

Champ Crocker was appointed to the Public Affairs Committee of the Alabama AEA.

2000
Lesa Booth was named a partner in the firm of Bradley Arant Doubt Cummings.

Shayana Boyd Davis joined the Law Office of Jack Carney LLC as of counsel.

Khristi Doss Driver, an attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Redkker, LLC, was appointed as chair of the Consumer Protection Division of the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office.

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Chris Glover, shareholder with Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C., was elected president of the Southern Trial Lawyers Association.

Mieke A. Henstroet was chosen for partnership in the Birmingham office of Jackson Lewis LLP.

Judge Adrian Johnson was appointed District Judge of Lowndes County by Governor Robert Bentley.

Susan Haygood McCurry joined Ely & Isenberg LLC.

Brian McVeigh was appointed by Governor Robert Bentley as district attorney of the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Alabama, which includes Calhoun and Cleburne counties.

Cam Ward won an Alabama Law Institute Legislative Award from the Alabama State Bar and serves as an Alabama uniform law commissioner.

Joseph A. Zarzaur, Jr., announces the opening of Zarzaur Law PA at 11 East Romana Street, Pensacola, FL 32519, (850)-444-9299.

Judge Elisabeth (Roberts) French was elected circuit judge of Jefferson County, Civil Division.

Mary Martha Parish owns an online-based company, Cheeriodicals.

Jonathan Walker was named a partner in the Pensacola, Fla., office of Conroy, Stambaugh & Schroff, which focuses on construction, insurance and commercial litigation.


Michael J. Clemmer joined Burr & Forman LLP as counsel.

Norman M. Orr, a partner with Burr & Forman LLP, was appointed to a one-year term as vice president of Special Equities, Inc. In addition, he was named to the board of directors in December 2010 and will serve a three-year term.

Gina Pearson announces the opening of her new law firm, Over the Mountain Law, in Huntsville, Ala.

Tamala R. Yeiling was named a partner with Constangy, Brooks & Smith LLC.

1999
Anna Funderburk Buckner of Cahana, Johnston, Gardner, Dumas & O’Neal LLP was invited to become a fellow in the American College of Trial and Estate Counsel.

Caroline Coker Courey joined Premieux Global Services as corporate counsel in their Atlanta-based law firm.

John B. Critchfield became a shareholder in the law firm of Chambers, Balner & Stoppel, P.C. He is a member of the firm’s Litigation Practice Group, and focuses on construction, insurance defense and general civil litigation.

Chad Stewart joined Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C. as of counsel in the firm’s Consumer Fraud Section.

Leesa Booth was named a partner in the firm of Bradley Arant Doubt Cummings.

Shayana Boyd Davis joined the Law Office of Jack Carney LLC as of counsel.

Khristi Doss Driver, an attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Redkker, LLC, was appointed as chair of the Consumer Protection Division of the Electronic Discovery Committee of DRI. She served as keynote speaker for the Lundy Helfin Unit’s 52nd Annual Scholarship Benefit Luncheon and Fashion Show, and was featured on a live continuing legal education webinar entitled “Small World: The Ethics of Legal Process Outsourcing and Off-Shoring.” The webinar was presented by the Professionalism and Ethics Committee of DRI.

Amy Hampton was named a partner in the firm of Bradley Arant Doubt Cummings.

Kim Hudson, an attorney with Davis Law Firm in Auburn, Ala., was the keynote speaker at the Auburn Women’s Philanthropy Board winter meeting.

Scott Kelly, of Ogletree Deakins, was appointed by the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law as cochair of the section’s Leadership Development Program.

Denetra Liggins was named a partner at Thompson & Knight.

Walt M. Meshel III was elected in the November general election to the Office of the District Attorney for the 22nd Judicial Circuit for the State of Alabama. He and wife, Hannah, and their three girls, Bay, Cape and Banks, live outside Andalusia, Ala.

V. Michelle Obadovic, court mediator for the 10th Judicial Circuit and private practitioner, is a charter member of the Alabama chapter of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. She presented on the topic of constitutional issues in criminal mediation in Washington D.C., as part of the Supreme Court Fellows Program. She also taught Criminal Mediation, Theory, Style and Strategy at the National Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution in Greensbelt, Md.

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Judge Adrian Johnson was appointed District Judge of Lowndes County by former Alabama Governor Bob Riley.
Bill Pelement recently formed William H. Horton & Associates, PLLC, in Chattanooga, Tenn. His practice includes personal injury, family law and general litigation.

Lauren H. Shine is of counsel with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC.

Matt Simpson was named a Rising Star of the Alabama GOP. He is a circuit court prosecutor with the Mobile County District Attorney's office and chairman of the Baldwin County Republican Party Executive Committee. He serves on the Alabama Republican Party State Executive Committee and the Young Republican Federation of Alabama Executive Committee.

2006
Joe Hubbard was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives for House District 73.

Captain Brent N. Jones was commissioned into the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate. He is a captain assigned to Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco, Calif.

Will Lawler was hired as compliance coordinator for the athletics department of Arkansas State University.

Captain Michael O’Mara is an instructor/senior defense counsel stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala.

Andrew Perreault and Kathryn Dietrich were married at Samford University in December 2010.

Andrew J. Thomson rejoined Fish & Richardson as an associate in its patent practice.

M. Baird Beers, Jr., an attorney with Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC, was elected to the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association for 2011.

Mary Turner Benoist is an attorney at Regions Bank in Birmingham.

Casey Coburn is an attorney at William Hall PC.

L. Kenneth Elmer joined Bond, Botas, Reese & Shinn PC as an associate.

Lisa Knapp joined Porterfield Harper Mills as an associate.

David Ketcher joined Broadband Capital Management LLC as an investment banking associate.

Teresa Magnus of Vulcan Industrial Contractors, Inc., was nominated for a Top CEO Rising Star Award by the Birmingham Business Journal.

Ashley McGrane was accepted into to the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine.

Tondra Moore, assistant professor at Texas State University-San Marcos, was awarded a $78,000 grant by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation’s leading philanthropy on health and health care.

Adam Russell joined the Knoxville, Tenn., firm of Kramer Raymon LLP as an associate.

Andrew D. Stanley joined Sanford & Denison LLP as an associate.

Anna Cates Williams joined Special Counsel, Inc., as placement director in the Brentwood, Tenn., office. She focuses on lateral attorney placement and business development in Tennessee and nationwide.

2009
Summer Austin Davis joined the Litigation Practice Group of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as an associate. Her practice focuses primarily on product liability and other complex litigation.

Jeffrey P. Doss joined Lightfoot Franklin & White as a new associate.

Dara D. Fernandez Perez of Haskell Slaughter Young & Rediker, LLC, led an Excerise webinar on “Immigration Basics and Best Practices for Corporate Lawyers” in October. She was named the Alabama deputy representative for the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Mary Turner Benoist serves as assistant attorney general, Texas Office of the Attorney General.

Lindsay E. Hale was selected for the six-member moot court team at Kings College in London.

Andrew Brasheir joined Bradley, Allen, Crown, Mithoven, Ports & Males, P.C. as a new associate in the Consumer Fraud Section.

Stewart R. Civils joined King Lyons LLC as a new associate.

Benjamin B. Coulter is a new associate at Burr Forman in the financial services litigation practice group.

William L. DeBuys joined Starnes Davis Florie LLP as an associate.

Matthew Edward Dye joined the firm of Miller & Christie, P.C.

Rachel W. Elson joined the law firm of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC.


Sheri Rouse joined the law firm of David L. Martin in Northport, Miss.

T. J. Schaffer and Brittany Alkins were married on Aug. 21, 2011, in Nashville, Tenn. He joined the firm of Parker, Lowrance, Cantrell & Smith in Nashville.

Christina Lorino Schutt joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as an associate in the firm’s Environmental and Toxic Tort Practice Group.

William S. Starnes, Jr., joined Starnes Davis Florie LLP as an associate.

Matthew Edward Dye joined the firm of Miller & Christie, P.C.

Rachel W. Elson joined Ables, Baxter, Parker, Pippus, Avant, P.C. in Huntsville, Ala.

Alexander B. Feinberg joined Maynard Cooper & Gale P.C. as a new associate in the Birmingham office. He practices in the securities litigation and insurance and financial services litigation groups.

Nick Gonzalez joined Huie Fernambucq & Stewart as an associate.

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More information is available at cumberland.samford.edu/alumni.