Cumberland School of Law Celebrates 50 Years at Samford University

This year, Cumberland School of Law celebrates 50 years at Samford University. This picture depicts one of the first moot court law classes at Samford in Robinson Hall during its construction. Can you identify the students in this picture? Write us, or send an email to lawalum@samford.edu. We’ll include their names in the next issue of The Cumberland Lawyer.
50 Years of Growth
In this special edition, Cumberland School of Law celebrates 50 years at Samford University and the growth from then to now.

A Win Like No Other
For the first time in history, the law school took home the first-place win at the prestigious Tournament of Champions.

A Birthday Surprise
Former Professor Frank Donaldson celebrated his 90th birthday with family and more than 300 of his Cumberland friends.

Cumberland’s Atticus
Governor Albert Brewer received the esteemed presidential seal for his service to Samford and the state of Alabama.

Contact Cumberland School of Law
We need your help to make The Cumberland Lawyer useful to alumni. Send us your comments and ideas for alumni profiles, articles and ongoing features in addition to your personal alumni updates.

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Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, president of Samford University, has a wonderful way of reminding us that our present successes are due to the hard work of those who came before us. In his words, “We sit in the shade of trees we did not plant.”

We are in days of unparalleled success at the law school. It is important, as we approach our 50th anniversary on the Samford campus and we celebrate those successes, to remember that our present successes are due to the hard work of so many people who preceded us at this place.

It is particularly appropriate that we remember Dean Arthur Weeks. As I have learned since I have been the dean, there were times in the early days after the move from Lebanon to Samford that Cumberland was in serious trouble of losing its accreditation. In all candor, we exist as a law school today because Dean Weeks would not let us die. We all owe him a tremendous debt.

We also owe a tremendous debt to the people featured in this edition of *The Cumberland Lawyer*—Professor Frank Donaldson, Governor Albert Brewer and Dean Jim Lewis. They all planted trees in whose shade we bask.

We also owe a tremendous debt to you, our alumni, spread throughout the country. By the way you live your lives and pursue your careers, you are the best example of the good things we do here.

When I am talking to prospective students about Cumberland, I often point to you as the finest examples of our profession and the embodiment of all the values that Cumberland seeks to instill. I also tell them that I have had many titles in my life but the proudest title I have is the one I share with you—I am a Cumberland lawyer.

Thanks to you for all you do for Cumberland.

John L. Carroll
Dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law
The World’s a Stage

Adjunct professor Kimberly West brought out the bard in law school students during her Shakespeare and trial advocacy class fall semester. Students analyzed trial scenes from different Shakespearian plays, applying the language and techniques for modern use. In place of a final exam, groups crafted trials from the material, complete with depositions from the characters and modern lawyers. Shakespeare can breathe easy—his work was found to still be relevant. The Duke of Cornwall, however, was found guilty of battery. We saw that one coming.

A Professorial Wedding

Professor Howard Walthall entered into his own binding contract on July 30, 2011, when he said “I do” to Dr. Rosemary Fisk, the associate dean of the Howard College of Arts and Sciences and an English professor at Samford University. The two met over their shared interest in bike riding and Samford basketball. They can be found participating in the Old Howard 100 bike ride each year and at the occasional Samford basketball game with one of the grandkids.

Office Fire

In an attempt to make our British international students feel more at home, Pam Nelson, director of Student Services, hosted a mini bonfire in her office on Guy Fawkes Day. A regularly celebrated tradition in England, commemorative bonfires and fireworks are lit across the country celebrating the capture of Guy Fawkes on November 5. The Birmingham celebration consisted of a large candle and mini marshmallows—no harm was done to the facilities.

Dean’s Report Corrections

William Stancil Starnes ’72 is a member of the Caruther’s Giving Society and was a Class of 1972 giving participant. The recipient of the 2011 J. Morris and Eula Mae Brown Scholarship was Matthew Couch. The 2012 recipient is Kelly Speir.

Student Survey

80% of law school students believe a woman will become president in their lifetime.

57% of Cumberland School of Law students believe the Supreme Court is more likely to affirm a right to gay marriage than the Affordable Healthcare Act.

70% of law school students believe flying cars are more likely than elimination of the federal deficit.

48% of Cumberland School of Law students cite the Internet as their primary news source.

What’s Your Cumberland Law IQ?

When Howard College acquired Cumberland School of Law in 1961 for a sum of $125,000, the contract outlined that Howard College would obtain a portrait of what man who is now prominently displayed within the law school?

a. Memory Leake Robinson  
b. Arthur Weeks  
c. Cordell Hull  
d. Nathanial Green

Answer: c, Cordell Hull

Cordell Hull graduated from Cumberland School of Law in 1891 and is best known as the longest serving secretary of state, holding the position for 11 years (1933–1944) in the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Hull received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1945 for his role in establishing the United Nations. The portrait is displayed above the bench in the John L. Carroll Moot Courtroom on the first floor of the law school (see portrait on page 2).
In 1997, professors David Langum and Howard Walther wrote a definitive history of Cumberland School of Law, beginning with its establishment in 1847 in Lebanon, Tenn., as part of Cumberland University. They presented this summary on the cover of their book, *From Maverick to Mainstream*:

Cumberland School of Law holds a unique place in the history of American legal education. As the premier law school in the South in the nineteenth century, Cumberland trained two United States Supreme Court justices, nine senators, a secretary of state, and scores of other federal and state judges, representatives, and governors. Cumberland is among the oldest law schools in the Southeast and is the first law school to have been sold outright from one university to another, passing from Cumberland University to Birmingham, Alabama’s Howard College (now Samford University) in 1961.

This year is the 50th anniversary of Cumberland School of Law’s partnership with Samford University, and what a success story it has been. The hero of the acquisition was Arthur Weeks, a Birmingham lawyer who had been a former dean at the Tennessee school. Enrollment had declined in Lebanon, and the school was in danger of losing both American Bar Association [ABA] and Association of American Law Schools [AALS] accreditation.

Weeks was contacted by his former school to see if he could help with the situation. His solution was to encourage Cumberland University to sell the law school and for Howard College to buy it. Ultimately, Howard College President Leslie Wright, former Chancellor Harwell Davis and Howard College trustees agreed to Weeks’ proposition and purchased Cumberland School of Law and all its assets for $125,000, much to the chagrin of Memphis State University and other Tennessee institutions interested in purchasing the school.

The first law school class on the Howard College campus enrolled 63 students—28 first-year students and 35 transfers from the Lebanon campus. Classes were held in an unfinished portion of the third floor of Harwell G. Davis Library. Weeks was appointed dean, and was able to retain both ABA and AALS accreditation for the law school.

There were a few problems along the way. There was no law school building on campus until 1964. Classes
were held wherever space could be found. Law students who enrolled from major universities throughout the country rebelled against Howard College’s chapel requirement. (Law students were required to attend the weekly religious convocations or they would not receive a diploma.) Many Birmingham law firms were wary of hiring graduates from the fledgling law school. There was a period of tension between the law school and the university when an attempt was made to rename the school Samford University School of Law, a change that would have violated the conditions of the original purchase.

Today, under the leadership of President Andrew Westmoreland and Dean John Carroll, Cumberland School of Law is universally recognized as one of the finest law schools in the nation. The achievements of its students and graduates have been the foundation of the school’s success. During these 50 years, the school has graduated 8,564 lawyers. Alumni serve communities and the legal profession in every state in the union and many foreign countries.

Today, the law school and the university are united in achieving greatness as one institution. The dean of the law school and the chair of the Samford University Board of Trustees are both graduates of Cumberland School of Law. Every major law firm in Birmingham is replete with Cumberland School of Law graduates. The current president of the state bar association is one of many alumni who have held that position. The current chief justice of the Supreme Court is a Cumberland School of Law graduate, and many other graduates serve as judges throughout the country. Regional and national alumni associations have never been more supportive of the university as a whole.

The accomplishments over the past 50 years have been truly amazing. The future is even brighter.

Cumberland School of Law professor of law Brad Bishop has been associated with Samford University for almost 50 years as a student and faculty member. He received his B.A. degree from Howard College in 1961 and a M.A. degree from the University of Alabama in 1962. In 1967, after coaching debate and teaching speech at Mississippi State University for four years, he was hired as a faculty member and debate coach at Samford. In 1971, he received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law and was immediately hired by Dean Weeks as a member of the law school faculty. In recognition of his years of service, the Samford board of trustees recently named the dean’s conference room in the law school the T. Brad Bishop Conference Room with a permanent plaque designating the honor that reads:

Distinguished Alumnus, Professor, Author, Mentor to Students, Friend to All
Samford University Board of Trustees March 22, 2011
Dean Judge Carroll, dark glasses, leads the annual procession memorializing Rascal.
I was a little anxious back in 1961 when I heard the talk in Lebanon that Cumberland Law School might move to Birmingham. I am, after all, a devoted alumnus of Cumberland, where in 1935 I was honored to receive the only degree of canine jurisprudence in the history of legal education.

Some of my concerns were personal, of course. What would happen to my remains, which my fellow law students, after an elaborate memorial service, had laid to rest next to the old “Law Barn” in Lebanon?

More important, how would the law school do in Birmingham? Would it continue to graduate excellent lawyers who served their clients well? Would it recruit sound faculty and attract good students? Would they remember the lesson I tried to share with my fellow Lebanon students, which is to take time for family and friends (two-legged and four-legged) since, as I always liked to remind them, “There is more to life than law school!”

Those were some of the things that troubled my spirit as it wandered the streets of Lebanon in 1961.

Not to worry.

Once I learned that the mascot for our new home, Samford University, was a bulldog, I knew things would be all right.

First of all, they made sure that my remains were re-interred beside the new law school building in Birmingham, with a nice memorial plaque to mark the spot.

Second, as a part of Samford University, Cumberland School of Law has prospered. Students from all over the county flock to its halls in Birmingham’s Shades Valley as they once did to Lebanon. One thing that has changed is the faculty, which is now drawn from all over the country and who were trained at some of the most outstanding universities in the country. The faculty is committed to scholarship as well as teaching. From what I can tell, training lawyers to serve clients in the actual practice of law still seems to be the focus. Trial and appellate advocacy are still emphasized, but now there seem to be more business and transactional courses than we had in Lebanon.

Another way in which the Cumberland tradition continues is in the form of the annual Rascal Memorial Day held each spring. It is quite a day. In the morning, the students bring their dogs to class, just as I once attended class in Lebanon. Then there is a parade across Samford’s campus, with the dean and a Dixieland band leading the students and their pets. After a brief eulogy, the faculty serves lunch (hot dogs) to the student body. All in all, it serves as a reminder of the lesson I always tried to convey, through barking and tail-wagging—there is more to life than law school! The tradition continues.

For those who may not be familiar with this most hallowed of law school traditions, Rascal was a dog who in the 1930s lived in Lebanon, Tenn., near the law school building. Rascal regularly attended law classes and was awarded the degree of canine jurisprudence as part of the Class of 1935.

Professor Howard Walthall is coauthor with Professor David Langum of the definitive history of Cumberland School of Law, From Maverick to Mainstream: Cumberland School of Law, 1847–1997.
Since the first class was held on Samford University’s campus in the fall of 1961, Cumberland School of Law has grown from a struggling regional law school into a nationally recognized one with superior educational programs, exceptional faculty and a top-ranked advocacy program. Back then, Dean Arthur Weeks had a vision to resurrect the law school’s former prestige and grow it to new heights, both in numbers and reputation. Now, Cumberland School of Law is regarded as one of the premier private law schools in the Southeast, and students come from across the United States and around the world to obtain a practical legal education.

**Enrollment**
The first class at the new Samford University campus consisted of only 16 students, many having not made the move from Lebanon, Tenn., to Birmingham. Today, Cumberland School of Law boasts a total enrollment of 489 students, with an average 163 students per class. The law school’s classes are small by design, ensuring an optimal classroom experience and ample student/faculty interaction.

**Library**
With more than 200,000 shelved volumes and 96,000 on microfiche, the visually stunning Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library is one of the most extensive law libraries in the Southeast. Completed in 1990, the library serves as a serene place for students and the Birmingham legal community and is a great improvement from the previous law library, which was housed in the Great Room. Students and alumni can read law reviews from every American law school, as well as access all federal and state judicial opinions, statutory codes, the Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations, United States Hearings and Reports and selected foreign common law rulings.

**Status**
When Cumberland School of Law was acquired by Samford University in 1961, it was on the brink of accreditation suspension by the American Bar Association and was at risk of losing its American Association of Law Schools membership. Enrollments were down and the law school was operating at a deficit. Today, Cumberland School of Law boasts a strong enrollment, an $18 million endowment, and more than 8,000 active alumni. The current student body hails from 24 states, Washington, D.C., England and India, and represents 130 different undergraduate colleges and universities. The law school’s trial advocacy program ranks #5 in the nation, and faculty are regarded as some of the brightest and the best in the field.

**Classes**
With almost 70 classes offered each semester, the classroom experience of today’s Cumberland law school student is much different than 50 years ago. In 1961, students adhered to a set curriculum and were limited to class loads of only nine hours per term. With classes such as advanced trial advocacy, race and American law, Shakespeare and trial advocacy and negotiation, law school students have no problem fulfilling today’s average 15 hours per term.

**Student Programs**
Cumberland School of Law benefitted from a rich student life after the move to Birmingham. The establishment of the Student Bar Association, law review and competitive moot court teams help to achieve regional and national recognition for the school. Today students are involved in eight regional and national trial competitions, and Cumberland School of Law ranks eighth in the country for quality of student life. ✩
Celebration and Reunion Weekend  
April 13–14, 2012

Friday, April 13  
Cumberland School of Law Advisory Board Meeting

Classroom Experience  
10:30–11:45 a.m., Cumberland School of Law

Advanced Trial Skills Capstone Experience

Kickoff Reunion Weekend Gathering  
5:30 p.m., Century Restaurant and Bar at the historic Tutwiler Hotel

Saturday, April 14  
Golden Graduate Breakfast  
9:30 a.m., Howard Room

Cumberland’s 50th Anniversary Celebration  
11 a.m.–3 p.m., Robinson Hall  
Show your spouse, children or guest where you sat in class, visit with your former professors, watch our trial team practice for competition, tell Dean Carroll what you did after law school, visit with Trial Journal and Law Review students, and reminisce with classmates. Meet distinguished alumni, judges, and friends from all over the United States. Young and old will enjoy the many activities, musical entertainment, good food and friends!

Former Faculty and Staff Reception  
11 a.m.–12 p.m., Law Library Friendship Room

Meet President Westmoreland, Rex, and your National Alumni Association President  
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

A Short History of Cumberland School of Law with Professor Walthall  
12:30 p.m., Carroll Moot Courtroom

A Conversation with Dean Carroll  
1 p.m., Carroll Moot Courtroom

Game Show—Are You Smarter than a Law Student?  
2 p.m., Carroll Moot Courtroom

Cumberland Black Alumni Reception  
5 p.m., Steel

Individual Class Parties  
All parties start at 7 p.m. on Saturday night, unless otherwise noted.  
1972 Satterfield’s Restaurant  
1977 The Wine Loft  
1978 Friday night meet up—Frio en La Paz  
1982 Saturday night party—Burr & Forman  
1987 Home of Sally Clark Bowers  
1992 Home of Beau and Kathryn Byrd  
1997 Walker Law, LLC  
2002 Friday night meet up—Dram Whisky Bar  
2007 Saturday night party—Mafioza’s Pizzeria and Neighborhood Pub  
2007 Saturday night party—Cantina

REGISTRATION  
Register Online!  
http://cumberland.samford.edu/alumni/reunion-weekend-2012

You may also call 1-800-888-7248 to register by phone.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the historic Tutwiler Hotel. You can reserve your room online at www.birminghamtutwilersuites.hamptoninn.com. Reserve by March 16 to obtain the special rate. Code LAW.
The Law School Admission Test (LSAT) is a half-day, standardized test that measures those skills considered essential for success in law school: the reading and comprehension of complex texts with accuracy and insight; the organization and management of information and the ability to draw reasonable inferences from it; the ability to think critically; and the analysis and evaluation of the reasoning and arguments of others. Law schools use the LSAT score as one of several factors in an applicant’s assessment.

The test consists of five 35-minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Sample questions from reading comprehension, analytical reasoning and logical reasoning sections are included below. A 35-minute writing sample is administered at the end of the test, but was not included because it does not count toward the final score.

In the 2010–2011 testing year, more than 128,000 LSATs were administered in the United States. With an average score of 155, Cumberland School of Law students were well above the national average of 150. Are you?

Directions: The questions in this section are based on the reasoning contained in brief statements or passages. For some questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. You are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question. You should not make assumptions that are by commonsense standards implausible, superfluous or incompatible with the passage.

1 Political scientist: Efforts to create a more egalitarian society are often wrongly criticized on the grounds that total equality would necessarily force everyone into a common mold. Equality is presumed by such critics to require unacceptably bland uniformity. But this is not so. By promoting complementary human interests, a society can achieve a greater and more prosperous equality while enhancing rather than minimizing diversity.

The political scientist’s argument proceeds by
(A) undermining a view by showing that its general acceptance would lead to undesirable consequences.
(B) rebutting an objection by attacking the assumption on which it is said to be based.
(C) attacking a view by claiming that those who propose it are motivated only by self-interest.
(D) claiming that whatever is true of a group must be true of each of the members of the group.
(E) undermining an apparent counterexample to a universal claim.

2 Engine noise from boats travelling through killer whales’ habitats ranges in frequency from 100 hertz to 3,000 hertz, an acoustical range that overlaps that in which the whales communicate through
screams and squeals. Though killer whales do not seem to behave differently around running boat engines, engine noise from boats can be loud enough to damage their hearing over time. Therefore, ________.

Which one of the following most logically completes the argument? (A) Younger killer whales are better able to tolerate engine noise from boats than older whales. (B) Killer whales are less likely to attempt to communicate with one another when boat engines are operating nearby. (C) Noise from boat engines may impair killer whales’ ability to communicate. (D) Killer whales are most likely to prefer areas where boat traffic is present, but light. (E) Killer whales would probably be more successful in finding food if boats did not travel through their habitats.

3 Principle: If a food product contains ingredients whose presence most consumers of that product would be upset to discover in it, then the food should be labeled as containing those ingredients. Application: Crackly Crisps need not be labeled as containing genetically engineered ingredients, since most consumers of Crackly Crisps would not care if they discovered that fact.

The application of the principle is most vulnerable to criticism on the grounds that it (A) fails to address the possibility that consumers of a specific food may not be representative of consumers of food in general. (B) fails to address the possibility that the genetically engineered ingredients in Crackly Crisps may have been proven safe for human consumption. (C) implicitly makes use of a value judgment that is incompatible with the principle being applied. (D) takes for granted that if most consumers of a product would buy it even if they knew several of the ingredients in it, then they would buy the product even if they knew all the ingredients in it. (E) confuses a claim that under certain conditions a certain action should be taken with a claim that the action need not be taken in the absence of those conditions.

Questions 4–7
Directions: Each group of questions in this section is based on a set of conditions. In answering some of the questions, it may be useful to draw a rough diagram. Choose the response that most accurately and completely answers each question and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

4 Exactly eight books—F, G, H, I, K, L, M, O—are placed on a bookcase with exactly three shelves—the top shelf, the middle shelf and the bottom shelf. At least two books are placed on each shelf. The following conditions must apply: More of the books are placed on the bottom shelf than on the top shelf. I is placed on the middle shelf. K is placed on a higher shelf than F. O is placed on a higher shelf than L. F is placed on the same shelf as M.

Which one of the following could be a complete and accurate list of the books placed on the bottom shelf? (A) F, M (B) F, H, M (C) G, H, K (D) F, G, M, O (E) G, H, I, M

5 It is fully determined which of the shelves each of the books is placed on if which one of the following is true? (A) I and M are placed on the same shelf as each other. (B) K and G are placed on the same shelf as each other. (C) L and G are placed on the same shelf as each other. (D) M and H are placed on the same shelf as each other. (E) H and O are placed on the same shelf as each other.

6 Which one of the following must be true? (A) O is placed on a shelf higher than the shelf M is placed on. (B) K is placed on shelf higher than the shelf G is placed on. (C) I is placed on a shelf higher than the shelf F is placed on. (D) G is placed on a shelf higher than the shelf O is placed on. (E) F is placed on a shelf higher than the shelf L is placed on.

7 If G is placed on the top shelf, then which one of the following could be a complete and accurate list of the books placed on the middle shelf? (A) H, I (B) I, L (C) H, I, L (D) I, K, L (E) F, I, M

Directions: Each set of questions in this section is based on a single passage or a pair of passages. The questions are to be answered on the basis of what is stated or implied in the passage or pair of passages. For some of the questions, more than one of the choices could conceivably answer the question. However, you are to choose the best answer; that is, the response that most accurately and completely answers the question, and blacken the corresponding space on your answer sheet.

During Dostoyevsky’s time, there were two significant and opposing directions in Russian literary criticism. One position maintained that art stood high above the present and the everyday, while the radical view maintained that art had a right to exist only if it found its sources in concrete reality, and, through the exposure of want and injustice, it contributed to the creation of a new society; literature, in other words, should be useful. Dostoyevsky took a third position. As a realist, he never doubted that reality was literature’s crucial source. But his understanding of reality went deeper than the one prevailing among radical critics, since for Dostoyevsky there was no distinction in principle between fantasy and reality, and reality was far more than the merely tangible.

The radical critics’ demand that reality be depicted “as it is” was meaningless for Dostoyevsky; reality was necessarily shaped by the person who experienced it; what may not be reality for you may be reality for me. The task of the writer was to explode the boundaries of the so-called real world. Within perceptible “reality” exists another sphere, the fantastic, which is not in any way superfluous to a writer’s concerns: “The fantastic must be so intimately bound up with the real that one almost believes in it.”

The radical critics’ insistence that art must serve a particular political view was
for Dostoyevsky the equivalent of assigning to art “a shameful destiny.” A literary work must stand or fall on its “artistic merit,” he explained. The utilitarian claim that the formal aspects of a work were of secondary importance so long as its goal was good and its purpose clear struck Dostoyevsky as a contradiction in terms. Only fully realized artistic works could fulfill their goals. But what does it mean to say that a work is “artistic”? Dostoyevsky defined it thus: “To say that a novelist is ‘artistic’ means that he possesses a talent to express his thoughts in characters and images so that when the reader has finished the novel, he has fully understood the author’s thoughts. Therefore, artistry is quite simply the ability to write well.”

The radical critics’ requirement that art must at all costs be “useful” to people and society seemed to Dostoyevsky unsatisfactory. How can we know what will show itself to be useful? Can we say with assurance how useful the Iliad has been to humankind? No, Dostoyevsky believed, when it comes to this we encounter breadths that cannot be measured with any precision; sometimes a work of art may appear to deviate from reality and serve no useful purpose because we cannot see clearly what paths it may take to become useful.

8 Which one of the following works most clearly exemplifies writing Dostoyevsky would have deemed “artistic”? (A) a fictionalized account based on interviews with patients that illustrates the brutal facts of illness (B) a novel in which the author’s ideas are given substance through suitable characters and events (C) a novel in which the author attempted to use allegory to communicate a criticism of feudal society (D) an autobiographical essay in which the author chronicles the outstanding events in his life (E) a short story in which the characters debate how to solve various social problems

9 According to the passage, Dostoyevsky disagreed with the radical critics’ view of realism in literature because he believed (A) reality is not independent of the experiences of individuals. (B) realism is unequal to the task of representing political views. (C) art should be elevated above the portrayal of reality. (D) realism does not in fact facilitate the exposure of social inequalities or contribute to the creation of a new society. (E) reality is not the crucial source of successful literature.

10 In the context of the passage, the description of a work of literature as “useful” mainly refers to its (A) proficiency at depicting the realm of the fantastic. (B) effectiveness at communicating the author’s ideas. (C) ability to help bring about social change. (D) facility for exploding the boundaries of the tangible world. (E) capacity to advance a particular theory of literature.

ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. C
3. E
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. B
9. A
10. C

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“Trial Mom” Receives Recognition

Though you won’t find her name engraved on any of the trial team trophies, Tracy Luke has been an integral part of each trial team win since 1989. Just as students are behind the bar practicing for upcoming competitions, Luke is behind the scenes orchestrating every detail associated with the competitions.

As the program assistant for the Center for Advocacy and Clinical Education, Luke assists with all trial classes, the trial externship program and other courses as needed. Her work with the trial advocacy board, moot court board and all national teams is on the side, but at times could be a full-time job. From organizing student travel plans to recruiting judges for the competitions, Luke has her hands full, especially when Cumberland School of Law hosts prestigious competitions.

At opening convocation on Aug. 30, Luke received a Meritorious Service Award from Samford University. Given to only two or three Samford staff members per year, the award recognizes those who have made distinctive contributions to the university and for outstanding job performance within the past year.

Luke received the award based on her consistently exceptional performance and on the incredible effort she put forth in coordinating the regionals of the national trial competition, which the law school hosted in February 2011. “Tracy Luke is the glue that holds Cumberland’s Trial Advocacy and Moot Court together,” said Elizabeth Lyerly, 3L. “She is one of the most selfless people on this campus, always sacrificing her time and giving of herself with little to no acknowledgment.”

Congrats, Tracy!
On Oct. 30, 2011, a trial team from Cumberland School of Law won the Tournament of Champions, held this year in New York City. The Tournament of Champions [TOC] is considered the premier law school trial competition in the nation. Each year, only sixteen of the best trial advocacy schools are invited. Invitations are based on a school’s performances over three years in the National Trial Competition, the AAJ National Student Trial Advocacy Competition and prior appearances at TOC.

The tournament is sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy and Lexis Nexis. The winner has the honor of hosting the tournament the second year after the win. This year the competition was hosted by St. John’s School of Law. This is the first time Cumberland School of Law has won the tournament.

Team members were Maurine Evans ’12 (Birmingham, Ala.), SeTara Foster ’12 (Crosby, Texas), Cory Ricci ’13 (Madison, Ala.) and George Shiftlett ’12 (Portland, Tenn.). As members of the trial board, Evans and Foster were seasoned competitors, having argued in previous regional and national competitions. For Ricci and Shiftlett, however, the TOC was their first law school competition.
outside of Cumberland School of Law. They were coached by Mike Rasmussen ’75 and Marc Jaskolka ’00. Having coached the team that appeared at the TOC in Pittsburg, Penn., in 2009, Jaskolka and Rasmussen knew what to expect in a non-southern region. They worked with the team to prepare them for the challenge of trying a case in New York City.

The team was immediately put to the test when they went up against Stetson Law, a well-respected rival, and swept all three judges. They then went against the home team, St. Johns. When the prosecution called their witnesses out of order, Cumberland School of Law rallied, adjusted and pulled out a narrow win.

“Round two was the biggest learning experience out of the competition,” said Foster. “It showed that we can fall apart and come back together as a team.”

The team garnered a 4– record in the preliminary rounds, losing only one of twelve judges. Their record qualified them to be one of the four teams to enter the single elimination stage of the tournament. The law school again defeated St. Johns in the semi-final round and Northwestern School of Law in the final round.

The TOC win solidifies the law school’s reputation as an elite trial advocacy school.

“‘The TOC is special. Just being invited is an honor. Winning this tournament is truly an extraordinary accomplishment that I am personally proud of, and I know our alumni are as well,’” said team coach Marc Jaskolka ’00. “Not only were our students exceptional advocates, they also met the highest standards of professionalism and courtesy. The combination of all these qualities set them apart in this competition.”

Coach Mike Rasmussen had nothing but praise for the team. “We put a lot of thought and effort into choosing and coaching teams,” he said, “but in the end it is up to them to do their best and pull together. This group did just that. They put everything aside and went at it like real lawyers trying real cases for real clients. In doing so they met the highest traditions of the profession and of Cumberland School of Law. We look forward to hosting the tournament in 2013.”

Scorecard of Success

**National Trial Competition**
National Quarter-Finalist: 1992

**Tournament of Champions**
Winner: 2012

**MSU National Trial Advocacy Competition**
Winner: 2011

**Quinnipiac Criminal Justice Competition**
Winner: 2007

**National Top Gun Mock Trial Competition**
Second Place: 2011

**Lone Star Classic Competition**
Winner: 2007

**ABA Arbitration Competition**
Regional Finalist: 2007, 2006, 2005
Regional Second Place: 2006

**ABA Client Counseling Competition**
Regional First Place: 2008, 2002
National Fourth Place: 1998

**ABA Negotiation Competition**
Regional Second Place: 2004, 1996
National Third Place: 1998
Regional First Place: 1993

**ABA Student Tax Challenge**
National First Place: 2011

**AAJ/ATLA National Trial Competition**

**Representation in Mediation Competition**
National Champions: 2005
National Finalist: 2001

**National Appellate Advocacy Competition**
Regional Winner: 1993
Best Advocate: 1993

**ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition**
Regional Best Advocate: 2000
Regional Winner: 2008

*List only shows the last 25 years of success plus national wins
*If you were part of an older winning team, email amarovic@samford.edu to let us know.
A Speaker’s Impact

Michelle Ortiz ’12 was able to directly apply the lessons learned from speaker Sonia Nazario to her work in a summer clerkship.

Each year, flurries of speakers make appearances at universities across the states. Speakers serve as inspirational motivators, help define a student’s career path, and sometimes, truly make a difference in the life of an individual. When Michelle Ortiz ’12 heard journalist and social issues writer Sonia Nazario speak at Cumberland School of Law last fall, she couldn’t have imagined the impact that hour would have on her life.

Nazario is the author of the best-selling *Enrique’s Journey*, a book that follows the travels of a Honduran boy as he immigrates to the U.S. to find his mother. Each year, an estimated 48,000 children enter the U.S. from Central America and Mexico illegally and without a parent. “I listened to the discussion and read the book thinking that this is an emerging issue, but seriously doubting that I would be in a position to ever encounter any of these kids,” said Ortiz.

With a first-generation U.S. born husband and a childhood spent in Miami, Ortiz has always been curious about immigration issues. As a result of her roots and her contact with her husband’s family, Ortiz became bilingual in English and Spanish, a useful skill in her limited experience of immigration law.

This past summer, while working in a law office that conducted immigration work, Ortiz encountered a family with a routine set of immigration issues. During the deposition, Ortiz recognized the young boy in the family was hesitant to explain how he came to join his parents in the U.S. Ortiz began to ask very pointed and direct questions about his trip into the U.S. with a focus on the beginning of his journey.

“I relied wholly and completely on the events described by Sonia Nazario to formulate the questions,” said Ortiz. “To try and drag information out of him would have been impossible without knowing a background story.”

Answer by answer, the boy painted a picture very similar to that of Enrique’s. He communicated that he had walked from Guatemala, traveling with a group of adults, and that they were under fire when they crossed the U.S. border. Scenes from the book prompted Ortiz to conceptualize the journey, triggering her to ask questions outside of her daily experience. Eliciting details of the journey such as what he ate and where he slept allowed her to determine whether the boy was telling the truth.

The boy’s family had been to other lawyers before, only to receive the news there was nothing they could do for them. Because of her knowledge, Ortiz was able to draw out more details of the family’s experience and background than ever before, aiding the firm’s efforts to help the family attain asylum. “If I hadn’t gone to that speaking engagement and heard that side of the story, I don’t think I would have a full understanding of what is really happening for some people,” said Ortiz. “You’re not going to find it in a textbook.”
For former professor Frank Donaldson’s 90th birthday, Pattie Donaldson wanted to create an extra-special surprise. She knew Donaldson always loved to hear from his former Cumberland students, and to hear from them on his 90th birthday would mean more than any material present she could give him.

During his 43 years at Cumberland School of Law, Donaldson taught more than 4,500 law students. Cumberland School of Law alumni are not only an extension of his family, but a reflection of his life’s work.

After compiling names from every grade book for every course Donaldson ever taught at the law school, Pattie realized she was in over her head. She enlisted the help of the Cumberland Alumni Relations office, and an email was sent to all alumni enlisting them in the surprise.

Cards and emails flooded in from former students and law school acquaintances. “I thought we would have a few letters from names I recognized,” said Pattie. She never anticipated the response the email would generate.

During the course of the month, more than 300 messages were collected and compiled, a response that demanded the family create a book out of the memories. Alabama State Senator Marc Keahey ’04 even contacted the family and proposed to offer a resolution on the senate floor in recognition of Donaldson’s birthday.

Though so many people were involved, the surprise was a complete success. Pattie presented the book and senate resolution to Donaldson at his 90th birthday celebration, much to his shock and excitement. “I was touched and very appreciative and happy to see former students doing exceptionally well,” Donaldson said.

Letters came in from all over the country, many reflecting on Donaldson’s "tough" teaching and memorable classroom lessons. “I expected a lot of my students,” said Donaldson. “In a law class there are maybe 50 students, and that's a lot of brainpower. I didn’t want them to let themselves down. I encouraged them I hope in a professional way to apply themselves,” he said.

Thankfully, there wasn't a single derogatory letter in the whole bunch. “It was almost unreal,” he joked. “Nothing that was said back in law school during exams was said in those letters.”

Donaldson’s love for teaching began during law school when he taught a local Sunday school class. After trying a case with former Dean Arthur Weeks, he was approached by Weeks and Samford University President Leslie Wright to teach a contracts course at Cumberland School of Law. Donaldson decided to give it a try, and before he knew it he was one of the longest tenured professors ever employed at the law school.

Over his teaching years Donaldson watched law students grow physically, both in height and in weight. He went from teaching all male classes to classes almost half composed of female law students. He served as an advocate for the first black law student to be admitted to the law school in 1966 and he played handball with Student Bar Association President John Carroll in 1974.

Donaldson recently published a book reflecting on his life as a World War II pilot, FBI agent, attorney and Cumberland School of Law professor. Glimpses of an Abundant Life is a collection of short stories chronicling his 62 years of marriage to Pattie and the lessons he’s learned throughout his 90 years. He will be signing copies of his autobiography at the law school on April 14 at the 50th anniversary celebration. Donaldson would like to personally thank all of the alumni who sent him birthday wishes, so please be sure to stop by and say hello.
Spring is in the air and the law school is bustling with activity! The 51st year of Cumberland School of Law being in Birmingham is proving to be a continuation of success, growth and accomplishment. Our students are exceptional and I continue to enjoy meeting them and our extremely kind and generous alumni. Thank you to the 70 local attorneys (most alumni) for being at the school in January to conduct practice interviews of students. Also, thanks to those who judged the competitions during the BLSA southern regional conference.

Join us on Saturday, April 14 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cumberland School of Law being in Birmingham, Alabama. Members of the Class of 1962 will be present, along with former and present faculty, staff, deans and members of the judiciary. There is no charge for this event. You may tour the law school and Samford’s beautiful campus, listen to an update about the school’s successes, goals and challenges by Dean Carroll, take the opportunity to talk to President Westmoreland and Judge Julian Mann, our national alumni association president. Meet up with your classmates, look at your class composite and show your kids where you sat in class. All ages will enjoy having pictures made in the photo booth, choosing what cupcake you would like from the Dreamcakes truck and listening to The Expandables band. History boards are displayed in the second floor hallway and provide a nice illustration and summary of the last 50 years. Register now on our website.

I hope that 2012 exceeds your expectations just as you exceed ours. See you on April 14!

My best,

Anne Marovich

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**Spotlight on Atlanta Cumberland Club**

Under the leadership of Nicole Leet and Brad Parrott, the Atlanta Cumberland Club has experienced a tremendous growth spurt over the past year. Atlanta has become a popular market for recent graduates, and the club has capitalized on this by introducing less formal after-work networking events, appealing to young and old alike. By hosting at least two per year, the club reaches out to the 470 alumni in the area, encouraging them to get involved and broaden themselves, not only professionally, but personally as well.

**Strengths:** “Atlanta-area alumni are very active and committed to furthering the law school’s presence in the city. Not only are the alumni supportive of one another, but they support the legal community in Atlanta as a whole.” —Nicole

“Atlanta-area alumni include partners at many of the city’s prominent firms, in-house counsel, plaintiffs lawyers, successful smaller firm lawyers, government attorneys, prosecutors and judges. The strength of our club comes from the involvement of this breath of practices.” —Brad

**Benefits:** “Atlanta is a very large, diverse city with a lot of ‘transplants.’ The Atlanta Cumberland Club provides an initial point of contact for alumni to reach out to a person with an instant connection, their shared Cumberland background.” —Nicole

“Our events remind alumni of the resources each of us may provide others. I routinely reach out to Atlanta alumni when our firm has an attorney hiring need and to refer out conflict work. I mine our Atlanta alumni network when trying to assist Cumberland School of Law graduates looking for clerkship and associate positions. Our club meetings encourage and foster these sorts of interactions.” —Brad

**Vision for the future:**
- Addition of more gatherings and activities, including a breakfast meeting series
- Initiate a communication channel between area alumni to communicate life events, firm events, professional activities, job openings etc.

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**Upcoming Alumni Events**

- **April 13–14:** Reunion Weekend and Class Parties
- **April 14:** 50th Anniversary Celebration at the law school for alumni and guests
- **April 30:** Montgomery Alumni Luncheon
- **May 7–8:** Texas Alumni Events
- **May 10:** Chicago Alumni Event
- **May 17:** Atlanta Alumni Reception
- **May 18:** Graduation
- **June 21:** Alumni reception at Florida Bar meetings in Orlando
- **July 19:** Alumni reception at Alabama Bar meetings in Destin
How do you communicate the Cumberland experience? A student, an alumna and a professor were challenged to capture their personal experience of Cumberland in a series of photographs. The photographs below explore Cumberland today as seen through their eyes.

Photographer LaVone Warren is assistant dean for Continuing Legal Education and assistant professor at Cumberland. Her interest in photography was initially peaked as the result of a Cumberland newsletter project, and has continued as a way to document her family travels.

Photographer Jeremy Richter is a 3L student who credits his sanity to photography and his wife, Anna. He is a former adjunct instructor at Arlington Baptist College and has a M.A. in history from UAB. His photography has been featured on local news sources and highlights Alabama landscapes.

Photographer LaTara Johnson spends her days pursuing social justice with the YWCA of Central Alabama, and free time with her precious 3-year-old son. She won the Business Pitch Competition at the 2011 Magic City Black Expo for her photography business, elle Danielle Photography, which captures joy in everyday moments.
ncounter Governor Albert P. Brewer, and you immediately know you’re in the presence of a gentleman. With his polished suits and genteel southern manners, longtime professor and former Alabama governor Brewer is a modern-day depiction of times long past.

A soft-spoken man who always seems to have a book in his hand, Brewer is a real-life representation of Atticus Finch, protagonist of Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Each day, his deeply rooted wisdom and inspirational leadership challenges student lawyers to use their minds instead of their mouths, and to make choices with integrity instead of popularity. His sensible approach and warmhearted compassion sticks with students and leaves them thinking “Now that is the kind of man I want to be.”

For 25 years, Brewer has counseled countless numbers of Cumberland School of Law lawyers in the ways of moral courage, quiet dignity and leading by example. And who better to do it than a man who during the tumultuous civil rights movement served as an Alabama legislator, speaker of the house, lieutenant governor and governor. Always displaying exemplary morals, Brewer was a revolutionary of his time, standing for all people and making great strides toward a better Alabama.

In August, Brewer was awarded the Samford Medallion, becoming only the third recipient of the honor since its creation by the Samford Board of Trustees in 2006. The medallion recognizes persons whose good works have made a difference in society, in community affairs, in the life of the church and in the quality of life for individuals.

Clark Watson ’81, former chairman of the Samford board, presented Brewer with the surprise honor, calling him a “tremendous example to lawyers, educators, government leaders and the population of this state at large.”

**BREWERISMS**

“At the end of the day, who you come home to matters so much more than what you did the rest of the day.” Heather Ward ’10

“Have tactful solutions to clients’ tacky actions.” Dara LaMunyon ’02

“Honesty and integrity always prevail.” Lynn Hogewood Schuck ’03

“You don’t want to get walked all over, but you don’t want to be an ol’ stick in the mud neither.” Kyle Dulock ’10

“It takes a lifetime to build your reputation and a second to completely ruin it.” Jeremy Applebaum ’04
Beyond the Books

The life of Sherri Peace-Gordon ’12 is a little more complicated than the average law student. A 35-year-old mother of twin girls, Peace-Gordon splits her time between being a mom, wife and law student.

After sending the girls off to school and catching up on housework, Peace-Gordon makes a two-hour drive to Birmingham, alternating nights between her Birmingham apartment and her family’s Meridianville home. Despite her hectic schedule, Peace-Gordon manages to serve as president of the Black Law Students Association, won a client counseling and arbitration competition and was named scholar of merit for her public health law class.

Though Peace-Gordon occasionally misses out on the little moments in life with her family, she recognizes that soon all the sacrifices will be well worth it. “I realize and understand it’s not just me,” Peace-Gordon said. “It’s not just my success. It’s a commitment to the entire family.”

Here are some other tidbits about Peace-Gordon that certainly make her an atypical law student.

Family of Faith—Peace-Gordon and her husband, Clif Gordon, are both ordained ministers. After rising through the ranks of their home church, they became licensed as ministers and ordained as elders in 2008. Peace-Gordon and Gordon help with the organization of an affiliate church in Huntsville, where they occasionally speak and teach leadership classes.

Leverage—During their time in Germany, Peace-Gordon and Gordon served as referees for intramural sports programs on base. In an effort to spend more time with her husband in his fanatical world of sports, Peace-Gordon signed up to be a referee. This gave her the leverage she needed to get her husband to go antique shopping.

A Good Foundation—Peace-Gordon entered the army at age 17, serving for seven years and then working with the Army for another seven. “The military can prepare you for anything that you want to do,” Peace-Gordon said. “The foundation of it makes you successful anywhere you want to go. It teaches you to work hard and to focus.” Peace-Gordon took advantage of the financial resources available to her through the GI Bill and decided to make her law school dreams a reality.

Hand-me-down Hobby—When Peace-Gordon was very young, her father took up the hobby of photography. He passed down to her a Canon AE-1 camera, now one of Peace-Gordon’s favorite possessions. She enjoys tracking down parts for the 30-plus year old camera, and looks forward to using it more frequently when she returns home after school. When her girls are old enough, she plans to pass it to them as well.

The Plan—Before entering law school Peace-Gordon served as an ultrasound technician for 14 years. She worked so hard to obtain her certification that she decided to keep it up through law school, just in case it’s ever needed. “As I see it, I have the best of both worlds. In medicine and law people come to you in some of their most vulnerable moments. It is an honor for someone to trust you with delicate situations.”
Cassandra Adams served as moderator for a panel session at the annual Alabama State Bar meeting. Adams has been appointed chair of the law school subcommittee for the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Week Celebration Task Force.

Brad Bishop and his spouse, Dr. Anne Bishop, were honored at Samford University’s homecoming football game for their contributions to Samford University and Cumberland School of Law. Bishop played football for Samford under Coach Bobby Bowden while he was an undergraduate. Bishop presented “The Ethical Way to Handle Indigent Defendants” at the Municipal Judges Association in August.

Gov. Albert Brewer was appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley to serve on the state’s Constitutional Reform Commission.

John Carroll was awarded the Chief Justice’s Professionalism Award by the Alabama State Bar for his outstanding contribution in advancing the professionalism of the legal profession in Alabama. Carroll was a featured panelist for the Leadership Birmingham’s Criminal Justice Day program on the topic of the death penalty in Alabama.

Della Darby joined the law library staff in September in the position of serials librarian. She has a B.S. in media librarianship from Spalding University and a master of library and information science from the University of South Carolina.

Michael DeBow is working part time in the Alabama Attorney General’s office.

Brannon Denning traveled to Dublin in October for the ABA international meeting, where he served on a panel entitled “Pathways to the International Legal Academy and What You Find There: The Various Roles of Law Professors and Legal Academics.” He also appeared as a presenter at a CLE program at the University of the South in August, as a panelist at a conference for aspiring law professors hosted at the Arizona State University School of Law and at an annual CLE presented by the Center for Alcohol Policy. Recent articles include “McDonald v. Chicago: Five Takes,” which appeared in the University of Virginia Law School’s Journal of Law and Politics and “The Truth in Legislation Amendment: An Idea Whose Time Has Come,” which appeared in a symposium issue of the Tennessee Law Review on proposed constitutional amendments.

Alyssa DiRusso presented on the topic of lawyers in books for young children as part of a panel at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools. DiRusso published “The Big Questions of Philanthropy Law in a Delightful Snack-Size Portion,” a review of Boston College Law Professor Ray Madoff’s article, “What Leona Helmsley Can Teach Us About the Charitable Deduction,” in JOTWELL.

Emily Ferris joined the Office of Career Development on Aug. 1 as the new associate director. She is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi School of Law. She most recently served as Senator Wicker’s Counsel in Washington, D.C.

Wendy Greene presented “Who are We in the Workplace? How Title VII and GINA Work Together to Combat DNA-Based Race Discrimination,” at Loyola Law School—Los Angeles in September. Greene’s article, “Black Women Can’t Have Blonde Hair…in the Workplace” was published in the Iowa Journal of Gender, Race & Justice and made several top ten download lists on the Social Science Research Network throughout the summer. Greene was elected to serve as a member of the American Association of Law Schools Women in Legal Education Executive Committee.

Woody Hartzog participated in a symposium hosted by the Georgia Law Review titled Civil Rights or Civil Wants. His essay titled “Chain-link Confidentiality” will be published in the Georgia Law Review. Hartzog’s paper, “The Case for Online Obscurity,” received the International Association of Privacy Professionals—Future of Privacy Forum Privacy Papers for Policy Makers Award and was also presented at Yale Law School as part of the Thompson Reuters ISP Speaker Series. Hartzog’s article titled “Website Design as Contract” was published in the American University Law Review.

Paul Kuruk made a presentation on “Beneficiaries and Rights Holders of Traditional Knowledge” at a meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on
Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, in July. Kuruk conducted a training program on World Trade Organization law for government officials, ambassadors, business executives and other national and regional trade policymakers in July at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. He also participated in a meeting of the Committee of Experts on Harmonization of Member States Investment Laws to draft the legal text of a Community Investment Code for the Economic Community of West African States in Accra, Ghana.

Edward Martin participated on a panel of speakers at the SEALS Conference in late July at Hilton Head Island, S.C., where the topic of their presentation was “Enhancing The Classroom Experience: New Developments In Teaching Methodology And Technology.”

Jack Nelson’s article titled “Rationing Health Care in Britain and the United States” was published in Suffolk University Law School’s *Journal of Health and Biomedical Law*, Volume VII 2011, Number 2.

William Ross was interviewed about the Alabama immigration law on National Public Radio’s *All Things Considered* on Aug. 2 and on Sirius XM Satellite Radio on Aug. 26. During the summer, he gave a talk at the Immigrant Learning Center in Malden, Mass., about a chapter that he is writing in a book about the history of U.S. immigration, and he gave a presentation about his book on Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes in New York City at Hughes Hubbard & Reed. Ross’s article “Presidential Ambitions of U.S. Supreme Court Justices: A History and an Ethical Warning,” was printed in 38 *Northern Kentucky Law Review* 115-72 (2011).

Dayna Royal participated as faculty in an ABA national teleconference CLE titled “Separating the Fat from the Fiction: Restaurant Menu Labeling Laws Examined.” Also, she presented her paper “The Skinny on the Federal Menu-Labeling Law and Why It Should Survive a First Amendment Challenge” at the SEALS conference. Royal spoke to UAB students with a talk entitled You Can Say That Again!: Media Law & the Limits of Free Speech.

Jennifer Sims, assistant dean for admission and diversity at Cumberland School of Law, was recently elected to the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center Advisory Board.

Joe Snoe published the fourth edition of *Property: Examples and Explanations*.

Henry Strickland delivered bar review lectures for BarBri in 11 cities in seven states during the summer. At the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools, he made presentations on the following panels: “Recruiting, Training and Managing Adjunct Professors” and “Strategies for Complying with the ABA’s Outcome Measurement Requirements.”

Deborah Young taught evidence this summer at Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Vt.

John Carroll, Mike Floyd and David Smolin spent the week of September 19 in São Paulo, Brazil, along with former Alabama Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb. The primary event was a two-day constitutional law conference attended by approximately 700 people. The focus of the conference was on sumula vinculante, a limited form of binding precedent that Brazil has adopted. Cobb and Smolin were conference speakers.

Andrea Shaw joined the Cumberland School of Law faculty in 2011. She teaches legal writing to first-year law students in the law school’s lawyering and legal reasoning program. Shaw received her juris doctor in 2010 from Cumberland School of Law, graduating with honors. As a law school student, Shaw served as the managing editor of the *Cumberland Law Review* and published two articles in the journal. Upon graduation, Shaw formed Shaw Legal Research LLC, an organization providing legal research and brief writing services to law firms and solo practitioners. She is a member of the Alabama State Bar. The law is Shaw’s second career. Prior to attending law school, she received her bachelor’s degree from Florida State University in geology. Shaw worked as an environmental consultant at Jim Stidham & Associates, Inc., of Tallahassee, Fla., for nearly seven years where she performed environmental assessments for real estate transactions and petroleum contamination assessments.
1969
James F. Morgan is a member with Morgan, Herring, Morgan, Green & Rosenblutt in High Point, N.C., where he practices in the areas of personal injury, probate, wills, trials, zoning and government relations.

1972
Hon. Bill Bowen is the reporter of the committee for the Alabama Criminal Code Review and the chair of the committee for the Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Richard Cater served as cochair of the drafting committee for the Alabama Uniform Power of Attorney Act SB 53.

1973
Jack Natter has been appointed to the Hoover, Ala., city council.

1974
Charles H. Booth, Jr., has been named as the 2011 arbitrator of the year by the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama.

John Carroll is the chair of the committee for the Foreign Money Judgments Recognition Act and the Interstate Depositions and Discovery Act. He also received the chief justice’s professionalism award from the Alabama State Bar.

Judge Bruce E. Williams has joined Stephens, Millirons, Harrison & Gammons PC as of counsel.

1975
Thomas P. Anderson is a professor at Campbell University Law School. He teaches trial advocacy and is a past winner of the Becton Award, which recognizes the best teachers of trial advocacy.

Ron Clark, founder of the Lakeland, Fla., firm of Clark, Campbell, Mawhinney & Lancaster, is board chairman of the firm. He has expanded his practice in complex business and real estate transactions, and serves on the board for the Salvation Army and is involved in a major fund-raising campaign for Habitat for Humanity.

John H. Shannon was appointed to the 10th circuit judicial nominating commission by Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

1976
Marcella Auerbach was named Lawyer of the Year by Taxpayers Against Fraud along with her law partner, Ken Nolan.

1977
Larry Craven, the general counsel for the Alabama Department of Education, has been appointed by the board of education as interim schools superintendent.

George M. “Jack” Neal, Jr., an attorney with Sirote & Permutt, has been named the 2011 Lawyer of the Year by the Birmingham Legal Professional Association.

1978
James R. Pratt III is president of the Alabama State Bar.

1979
Arthur L. Smith III has been appointed by Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal to the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit Superior Court judgeship. Smith has spent the last 23 years as corporate counsel for Columbus-based insurance company Aflac.

1980
George V. Laughrun was recently chosen as one of North Carolina’s legal elite in the area of DWI defense. He specializes in DWI defense and has been practicing for more than 31 years.

Romaine S. Scott has been named to the bankruptcy committee of the Baldwin County Bar Association.

1981
Judge Charles R. “Chuck” Malone, former Tuscaloosa County presiding circuit judge, has been appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley as Alabama’s 30th chief justice.

John E. Ott, a United States magistrate judge, is a member of the Leadership Birmingham Class of 2011–2012.

Mitchell O. “Mickey” Palmer has been elected president of the Manatee County (Florida) Bar Association for the 2011–12 term. He obtained his Florida bar board certification in construction law and announces the opening of his new office at 5104 N. Lockwood Ridge Road, Suite 303-E, Sarasota, FL 34234, 941-400-4652.

1982
Sarah Clark Bowers has joined Proctor & Vaughn LLC of counsel.

Captain Bruce MacKenzie has retired from active duty from the Navy-Marine Corps trial judiciary.

Carol Stewart is the reporter of the committee for the Amendments Condominium Act.
1983

William Hyland is an adjunct professor of trial skills at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla.

Anthony “James” Rolfes has been appointed by Gov. Rick Scott to the Twelfth Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission.

1984

Allen Schreiber has joined The Mediation Center of Burke Harvey and Frankowski, LLC, in Birmingham. He is a member of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and the Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

1985

Katherine N. Barr, a shareholder with Sirote & Permutt, has been elected to serve a three-year term on the board of directors for the Special Needs Alliance.

Lenora W. Pate received the 2011 Bailey Thomson Award from the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform Foundation.

Michael Stacy was recently announced as the Outstanding Commonwealth Attorney for 2011. He received the award during the Kentucky Prosecutor’s Conference. He serves as the commonwealth attorney for the First Judicial Circuit. He has served as an instructor, presenter and lecturer at the Kentucky Prosecutors Institute and the National Advocacy Center at the National District Attorney Association in Columbia, S.C.

1986

Ed Kennedy has retired.

Thomas Richardson will begin service on the McLeod Health board of trustees, effective February 2012. He is employed with BB&T Wealth Management, where he is responsible for the administration of personal trust and fiduciary services for the Pee Dee region.

1987

Clark Gillespy is vice president of economic development at Duke Energy. He gave a public talk on Nov. 8 at the University of South Carolina about the importance of a sustainable energy future in recruiting new investment and increase job growth.

Theodore J. Leopold has been named to the 2011 Florida Trend Legal Elite in the Civil Trial Section. He lectured at the American Association for Justice Summer Convention in New York City on July 11 and at the Mass Torts Made Perfect conference in Las Vegas on October 14. He was elected recently to the office of vice president of Public Justice Foundation.

Sandra Lewis is serving as a committee counsel to the Alabama House of Representatives from the Law Institute. She is from Montgomery and is on the commerce committee.

Judge Daniel Sleet is an adjunct professor of trial skills at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla.

Louis S. Woodward has joined the Birmingham office of Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C. as a shareholder in the banking, retail and consumer, consumer and commercial finance litigation, real estate and commercial lending practice groups.

1989

Mark Petro announces the opening of Petro Law Firm, PC, 2323 2nd Ave N, Birmingham, AL 35203-3807, 205-327-8311.

David Tirella is an adjunct professor of expert witnessing at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Fla.

1990

Ahrian Tyler Dudley has been named chief executive director of the Smith Scholarship Foundation.

Judge Ruth Ann Hall has been appointed by Gov. Robert Bentley to fill the vacancy for Madison County circuit judge as district court judge for the 23rd Judicial Circuit.

Sharon D. Stuart, a partner at Christian & Small LLP, is a member of the Leadership Birmingham Class of 2011–12.

1991

Ted Meadows, who practices in Burr & Forman’s mass torts section, has been chosen to help direct litigation related to hormone replacement therapy as part of the plaintiffs steering committee.

1992

David B. Hall, a shareholder in Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC’s Birmingham office, has been appointed vice-chair of the Transportation Lawyers Association Committee on Casualty Litigation.

Robert Sombathy is joining the Florida State Attorney’s office as a prosecutor in the major crimes division. He will be
handling cases within the 14th Judicial Circuit.

1993

Charles E. Atchley, Jr., has been appointed deputy criminal chief for the Eastern District of Tennessee U.S. Attorney's Office. He will also serve as the supervisor for white collar crime in Knoxville and national security/counterterrorism matters districtwide.


Mark Fore has been promoted to of counsel at GrayRobinson, P.A.’s Lakeland office.

Leslie M. Kroeger has been named to the 2011 Florida Trend Legal Elite in the civil trial section. She also has been selected to join the second class of Leaders in the Law by The Florida Association for Women Lawyers.

1994

L. Hunter Compton, Jr., has become a member of Satterwhite, Buffalo, Compton & Tyler LLC.

Robert Methvin is serving as chair of a task force committee on disaster relief with the Birmingham Bar Association.

1995

Terrell “Terry” Buford Cook is the administrator of McRae Manor Nursing Home in McRae, Ga. He serves on the board of directors of the Georgia Health Care Association and of the Merchants and Citizens Bank.

Richard Nickels has joined the law firm of Bone McAllester Norton as a corporate law and estate planning attorney.

Nicholas Woodfield’s Washington, D.C., firm, The Employment Law Group, was named by Lawyer Monthly as the 2011 labor and employment law firm of the year.

1996

Doug Baymiller is general counsel at American Auto Shield in St Arvada, Colo.

Tom Bazemore has been admitted to The Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel.

Chris Berdy, an attorney with Christian & Small LLP, has been named membership chair for Alabama by the International Association of Defense Counsel.

L. Griffin Tyndall has joined Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC as a shareholder in the construction practice group.

Cam Ward was cosponsor of the Alabama Unborn Foreign Declarations Act HB 29. He is also chair of the committee for the Collaborative Law Act.

1997

James Childs of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP has been named a member of the Stump Advisory Board at Birmingham-Southern College.

1998

Jacob A. Brown of Akerman Senterfitt was recently appointed as vice chair of the Bankruptcy/UCC committee of the Florida bar’s business law section and will serve until he becomes the committee chair for 2012–13.

Sandi Eubank Gregory announces the formation of Gregory, Burns & Brashier LLC.

Stacy L. Moon has become a shareholder with Fees & Burgess PC.

1999

Daniel P. Avery has been elected as a shareholder to Carr Allison. His practice focuses on labor and employment litigation and workers’ compensation matters.

Douglas V. Chandler announces the opening of Chandler Law LLC, 5447 Roswell Road, NE, Suite 305, Atlanta, GA 30342, 404-593-2670.

Frances Herring is the new principal of Contentnea-Savannah K–8 school in Kinston, N.C.

2000

Matt Abbott announces the opening of Abbott Law Firm LLC at 308 Martin St. N., Suite 200, Pell City, AL 35125, 205-338-7800.

Khristi Doss Driver, an attorney in the legal department at Southern Company, has been named by the Council on Litigation Management to the keynote and speaker selection committee for the council’s 2011 National Women’s Forum.

Marcus A. Jaskolka announces the opening of Jaskolka Law Firm LLC at 512 Montgomery Hwy., Suite 200, Birmingham, AL 35216, 205-822-6782.

2001

Laura Susan Burns announces the formation of Gregory, Burns & Brashier LLC.

Chris Glover was named Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C.’s Product Liability Section Lawyer of the Year.

Ashley E. Manning recently joined Carr Allison as an associate in the Birmingham office. She will be a member of the firm’s workers’ compensation practice group.

Latania Gr. Watters has been appointed to a second term as vice chair of the staff counsel committee of the American Bar Association’s tort trial and insurance practice section. She has also been named the 2011–12 assembly speaker of the American Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division, and has been appointed to a three-year term on the Young Lawyers Division’s leadership advisory.

2002

John H. Harris has been selected by the Spartanburg, S.C., county council as associate county attorney for the new in-house legal department.

Raymond M. Lykins joined Clark James Hanlin & Hunt LLC as an associate.

Joseph P. Schilleci, Jr., announces the opening of The Schilleci Law Firm LLC at 2323 Second Ave. N., Birmingham, AL 35203, 205-327-8340.
In Memoriam

Through December 31, 2011

David Earl Bailey, Jr., ’91 of Pensacola, Fla., died Aug. 6, 2011 at the age of 55. Bailey was an active member of the Gateway Church of Christ where he served as a Bible teacher and legal ministry leader.

Case Ashmore Bodiford ’99 died July 1, 2011. Bodiford was employed with the State of Florida’s Department of Revenue as a senior tax attorney in the Office of General Counsel.

George Boles ’68, of Mountain Brook, Ala., died Dec. 9, 2011. He was a partner in the law firm of Weaver and Boles. He also served as assistant district attorney in Huntsville, Ala., and municipal judge in Trussville, Ala.

Judge James W. Chamberlain ’54 died Jan. 21, 2011, at the age of 80. He practiced as an attorney at law in the 15th judicial district from the late 1950s up until his death. He served as Lafayette’s municipal court judge for 37 years.

Chris Christ ’68, age 75, of Vestavia, Ala., died June 29, 2011, after a brief illness. He was a practicing attorney for 43 years and a part-time judge for many years.

Robert Marcus “Marc” Givhan ’86 died at the age of 52 on Nov. 16, 2011.

Joe Hubbard ’78, a detail-oriented district attorney who prosecuted some of Calhoun County’s most notorious criminal defendants, died June 27 at his home in Oxford. He was 58. Hubbard died of complications from esophageal cancer.

Wesley Miles Lavender ’74, died Aug. 11, 2011, at age 63 at his residence. He was an assistant district attorney for Morgan County and a Falkville and Somerville municipal judge.

Ralph G. Lawrence ’52 died Oct. 12, 2011. For 29 years, he was the president of the Associated Agency, an independent insurance agency located in Memphis, Tenn.

John Howard “Jack” McEniry III ’71, died July 5, 2011, at his home in Hoover, Ala., following a battle with cancer. He practiced law for close to 30 years with his father and uncle at the law firm of McEniry, McEniry & McEniry in Bessemer, Ala.

Mark David Mullins ’92, of Perrysburg, Ohio, died March 12, 2011.

Earl Joseph Reuther ’90 died Sept. 11, 2011.

Jeffrey Stewart Sawtelle ’74, of Burke, Va., died July 18, 2011.

C. Don Schenkemeyer, Jr., ’74 died Oct. 28, 2011. He operated a private law practice and was a Jefferson County public defender.

Marsha Lynn Semon ’91, age 53, of Birmingham, died Sept. 8, 2011. She was an attorney at Starnes Davis Florie LLP.

Claude Slagle, Jr., ’50 died Sept. 11, 2011. He served as a JAG officer and fought in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Robert Boxley Stamps ’70 died Oct. 7, 2011. He practiced corporate law and real estate in the Birmingham area for more than 40 years.

Thomas Melville Stewart ’38 died Jan. 21, 2011. He worked for the state of Tennessee for 33 years, serving 15 years as director of motor vehicles and concluded his career as an administrative law judge in the department of revenue.

Myron David Stutzman ’67 died June 29, 2011.

Johnny Mac Turner, Jr., ’86, of Mountain Brook, Ala., died on July 18, 2011.

Harry Wilters, Jr., ’51, of Baldwin County, died Sept. 15, 2011. He practiced law for 60 years and twice served on the Alabama Supreme Court. He was known for his stern courtroom demeanor, but was well respected from judges and attorneys across the county.

John Fred Wood, Jr., ’72 died August 25, 2011. He was a long-time partner with Dominick, Fletcher, Yeilding, Wood & Lloyd and served in the U.S. Army Reserves and National Guard for 32 years.

Jere Field White, Jr., ’80 died Oct. 3, 2011, at the age of 56 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. White was a founding member of the law firm of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC and had a long and distinguished career, trying more than 100 jury trials to verdict.

2003

D. Brian Murphy announces the opening of DB Murphy LLC at 209 N. Joachim St., Mobile, AL 36603, 251-300-2503.

Angela N. Warren has joined the law firm of Pope & Barloga, PA. She will focus her practice in the areas of elder law and probate.

2004

Dow A. Davidson has joined the Charleston, S.C., office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate. Davidson’s practice focuses on a broad range of business and commercial litigation.

R. Brett Garrett is now a shareholder of Rushton, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett PA.

2005

Micah Adkins has joined the firm of Burke, Harvey & Frankowski LLC. He represents clients who have credit report disputes and victims of identity theft.
Michael B. Stevens founded the Office of Michael B. Stevens, Attorney at Law in Guntersville, Ala., in October 2011.

Brandi Williams is serving as a committee counsel to the House of Representatives from the Law Institute. She is from Leeds, Ala., and is on the Jefferson County Delegation.

2006

Thomas Henry Blake III married Jane Baker Walker on September 17, 2011.

Ray Carle announces the opening of the Birmingham office of McCalla Raymer, 205-613-5832.

Robert “Bo” H. Harris II has joined tax and estate planning law firm Ingwersen & Taylor as an associate.

Joseph Lister Hubbard, Jr., was elected to represent the 73rd House District in the Alabama House of Representatives in November 2010. In January 2011, he was elected by his caucus as the minority whip. In July 2011, he founded the law firm, Hubbard Coleman, P.C., in Montgomery, Ala.


2007

Angela Baker Evans has joined Westervelt, Johnson, Nicholl & Keller LLC.

W. James Sears IV is associated with the firm of Couch, Conville & Blitt LLC.

Walker Stewart has joined Hall, Bloch, Garland & Meyer, LLP as an associate in the firm’s Macon, Ga., office.

Randall Woodfin has been named a member of the Alabama Tornado Recovery Action Council created by Gov. Robert Bentley.

2008

Morgan M. Sport has been selected as a member of the 2011 Birmingham Bar Association’s Future Leaders Forum.

2009

Dara D. Fernandez has joined Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose LLP as an associate. She was elected president of Region VII of the Hispanic National Bar Association.

Katherine “Katie” Reeves has joined Ogletree Deakins as an associate in the Birmingham office.

Ryan D. Thompson has joined Burr & Forman’s Atlanta office as an associate where he is a member of the banking and real estate practice group.

2010

Taylor Bartlett has joined Heninger Garrison Davis LLC. His practice focuses on representing individuals in the areas of pharmaceutical and medical device litigation.

Shannon Hardin Dye has joined the Birmingham office of Carr Allison as an associate. She will be a member of the firm’s workers’ compensation practice group.

Kiel Gross has been named business manager of ancillary and clinical services division at Shands Jacksonville Medical Center.

Ashley Brook Reitz and Curtis Lee Peinhardt were married on May 14, 2011, at Barnsley Gardens Resort in Adairsville, Ga.

Ryan Stringfellow is an attorney at Smith Cashion & Orr, PLC in Nashville, Tenn.

Margaret Ann Ware and Eric Christopher Vinsant were married on June 25, 2011. They reside in Knoxville, Tenn.

Tripp Watson announces the opening of The Watson Firm, PO Box 130495, Birmingham, AL 35213, 205-377-5202.

Amanda S. Williamson has joined Heninger Garrison Davis. Her practice focuses on representing individuals in the areas of pharmaceutical and medical device litigation.
Michael C. Barnett has joined the Dallas, Texas, office of Shackelford, Melton & McKinley, LLP as an associate. His practice focuses on transactional work in a wide range of corporate and commercial law.

Matthew Brown has joined the firm of Milam & Milam, LLC in Fairhope, Ala., as an associate.

L. Cole Callihan has joined the New Orleans, La., office of Adams and Reese as an associate.

H. Carlton Hilson has joined Burr & Forman’s Birmingham office as an associate where he is a member of the litigation practice group focusing on labor and employment law.

Carrie J. Hodge has joined Carr Allison as an associate in its Birmingham office. She has joined the firm’s litigation practice group.

Trey Levie is an associate at McKeon, Meunier, Carlin & Curfman, LLC in Atlanta, Ga.

Hannah C. Mebane has joined Burr & Forman’s Birmingham office as an associate where she is a member of the litigation practice group focusing on torts, insurance and product liability law.

Sarah Kristen Peters has joined Burr & Forman as an associate in the financial services litigation department.

Alyson Hood Rains has become an associate at the Birmingham law firm of Crew and Howell.

Molly Savage is an assistant public defender at the Colorado Public Defender’s Office in Greeley, Colo.

Kristen Sims has joined Charles Pitman Injury Lawyers, LLC.

Brett C. Thompson has joined Burr & Forman’s Birmingham office as an associate where he is a member of the Litigation practice group, focusing on transportation and maritime law.

Christopher Yearout has joined Lightfoot Franklin & White as an associate.
2011–12 Advisory Board Members
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Thomas M. Woodruff—St. Petersburg, Fla.

Advisory Board New Member Profiles

Honora M. Gathings ’78 is a founding partner in Gathings Law. She is an active board member of The American Journal of Trial Advocacy Foundation, and is a mentor at Cumberland School of Law for freshmen law students, Women in Law, and The American Journal of Trial Advocacy. She hosts events for law students throughout the year, occasionally speaks for the Alabama State Bar and serves as a member of the women’s section of the Birmingham Bar on the executive board. Gathings is involved in church, community and civic activities in her spare time and has been married to Lloyd W. Gathings for more than 30 years.

Stephen D. Heninger ’77 is a partner with Heninger, Garrison, Davis, LLC. While at the law school, Heninger served as chief justice of the moot court board. He is a frequent lecturer and teacher for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and has served as a member of the Alabama Supreme Court Advisory Committee on appellate practice for the past fifteen years. He was recently inducted into the Alabama Law Foundation and has been selected as a top ten lawyer in Alabama by Superlawyers for 2010 and 2011.

Michael E. Hollingsworth III ’96 is the managing partner of Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough’s Atlanta office and
the cohead of the firm’s mergers and acquisitions group. In 2005, Hollingsworth founded the Southeastern M&A Forum, a cutting edge mergers and acquisitions conference that meets annually. In 2008, he was appointed to the advisory board of Thomson Reuters (West Professional Development). Hollingsworth has been recognized internationally for his work as a mergers and acquisitions lawyer and is very active in church and civic activities.

**Edward R. Jackson ’76** provides mediation services for Jackson, Fikes, Hood & Brakefield. He is an Alabama State Court mediator certified by the Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution. Jackson is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. He has been named among the Best Lawyers in Alabama for the past two years in personal injury and commercial litigation and was listed in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America.*

**Elizabeth P. Kagan ’81** is an attorney and licensed healthcare risk manager with Kagan, Jugan & Associates. She is involved in a wide variety of private enterprise ventures, including Devonwood Estates; Jet South, Inc.; Sky Aviation; and Cru Restaurant. Kagan is cofounder and chairman of the board of the Florida Doctors Insurance Company. She has also served on various community and professional boards and is a former president of The American Medical Association Alliance and The Florida Medical Association Alliance.

**Forrest S. Latta ’83** is a partner in the litigation section of Burr Forman. Latta chairs the firm’s appellate practice section. He has served by appointment on the Alabama Supreme Court’s Standing Committee for Appellate rules and is named in Best Lawyers in the field of Appellate Litigation. While at Cumberland, Latta served as an associate editor of the *Cumberland Law Review* and was a member of the 1983 national trial team, which finished second in the nation. Latta is very active in civic and church life, including serving as a trustee for Troy University and the Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

**Thomas C. Logan ’90** serves in the labor and employment section of Carr Allison. He is a trustee for the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and serves as vice chair for the Employee’s Liability and Workers’ Compensation Committee of the American Bar Association. He is a member of the Birmingham Young Lawyers Bar Association, the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, and the Defense Research Institute. While at Cumberland School of Law, Logan was a member of the Moot Court Board and the editor of the American Journal of Trial Advocacy.

**Jackson M. Payne ’71** is a partner with Leitman, Siegal, Payne & Campbell. Payne is a fellow of the American College of Trusts and Estates Counsel. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Cumberland School of Law, teaching in the area of estate planning and commercial real estate. He is a former president of the Cumberland School of Law National Alumni Association and currently serves on the advisory board for the School of Accountancy at Auburn University. Payne has been honored by The Best Lawyers in America for his work with trusts and estates and employee benefits law and Alabama Super Lawyers for his work with estate litigation.

**Angela (Ane) Redmond Debro, ’94** is the general counsel of Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University in Huntsville, Ala. Prior to her employment at Alabama A&M, she worked in the criminal division of the United States Attorney’s Office in the northern district of Alabama, primarily practicing in the area of white-collar crime. Debro has won recognitions from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the General Services Administration. She has various community and civic affiliations, including the Alabama State Bar, Big Brothers of North Alabama and the Girls and Boys Club Teen Center.

**Gary J. Rickner ’74** practices civil litigation with Ward and Smith. While at Cumberland School of Law, Rickner was associate editor of the *Cumberland Law Review.* He has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America, Business North Carolina, and North Carolina Super Lawyers. Gary has been rated by his peers as “preeminent” in his fields of law, and is active in several civic organizations.

**Sharon D. Stuart ’90** is a partner with Christian & Small. She devotes her practice to civil trial work and arbitration. She also serves on the executive committee of the firm. She is chair of the Amicus Curiae committee of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and serves on the long-range planning committee of the Birmingham Bar Association and the board of directors for Attorneys Insurance Mutual. She has been selected for inclusion in Top 25 Women Alabama Super Lawyers for 2010–11. Stuart is active in many church and civic organizations.

**Ricardo Woods ’04** practices in the litigation section of Burr & Forman. He also serves as one of the firm’s summer associate coordinators and is a representative member of the Mobile Bar Association’s diversity committee. He is currently a member of Leadership Mobile and has been selected as one of Alabama’s Rising Stars by *Alabama Super Lawyers Magazine.* Mobile Bay Monthly recently named Woods to its inaugural list of Mobile’s Top 40 Under 40. 
For 25 years, Jim Lewis has been the man with the knowledge at Cumberland School of Law. His work has touched every office within the law school; managing budgets, raising scholarship funds, advising students, working with the advisory board, advancing the law school’s international reach . . . the list goes on and on. He has selflessly served students, faculty and staff alike, receiving far too little credit for his invaluable behind-the-scenes work.

Jim has been a key contributor to Cumberland School of Law’s successes. There has been no job too big or too small for him to take on, and each task he completed with contemplation, insight, professionalism and good humor. His quiet and calming demeanor, incredible competence and warm smile will be deeply missed.

Jim, we will never be able to thank you enough. We hope you enjoy retirement on your tractor and that you and Karen don’t spoil the grandkids too much.

Cumberland Bids Farewell to Vice Dean James N. Lewis

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