



# The Dean's Weekly Newsletter

**Henry C. Strickland III**

Dean & Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law

Week of November 2, 2015

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## Cumberland to Host Ala. Courts on Wednesday



The Appellate Courts of Alabama, the Birmingham Bar Foundation and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law invite guests to observe the Alabama Supreme Court and Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals in a unique day of oral appellate arguments. The event is open to the public and free of charge.



**Wednesday, November 4  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Samford University  
Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center**

The Cumberland Law Review has published a [summary of the briefs for the cases to be argued on campus](#) before the Alabama Supreme Court and the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals on their website.

*The Alabama Supreme Court (top) and the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals (bottom) will hold oral appellate arguments on campus Wednesday.*

## Mock Trial Team Places Fourth in Tournament of Champions

A mock trial team from Cumberland placed fourth this past week at the Tournament of Champions in St. Louis, Mo. The Tournament of Champions is an invitational tournament that brings together teams from the sixteen best trial advocacy schools as measured by past performances in the two premier national tournaments sponsored by the ABA and the American Association of Justice. Cumberland won its first four rounds and lost in the semifinals to Georgetown. The tournament was won by the Loyola, Los Angeles, School of Law.

The trial was of a criminal case where a police officer was charged with shooting and killing an unarmed teenager. It was loosely modeled after the incidents in Ferguson, Mo. The team members were **Collin Hatcher, Austin Nichols, Amanda Herren, and Curtis Seal**. They were coached by Mike Rasmussen, class of 1976. Rasmussen said that the team has several perfect scores, and that one older and experienced judge said that Hatcher's cross examination was the best he had ever seen, in real life as well as mock trial.



*(from left to right) Colin Hatcher, Austin Nichols, Mike Rasmussen (coach), Amanda Herren and Curtis Seal placed fourth in the Tournament of Champions mock trial competition in St. Louis.*

Get Connected to Cumberland School of Law for all the latest updates.

The official Facebook page is "[Cumberland School of Law](#)" and the official Twitter account is "[CumberlandLaw](#)"



## Law School Announcements

**The Class of 2018 brought home the gold, once again, by winning the 2015 Pro Bono Pledge Challenge! Thanks to all for continuing the tradition of excellence by committing to serve your community through pro bono service.**

## Nominate Your Favorite Professor for a Teaching Award

Cumberland has a long history of outstanding teaching, and superior teaching is a critical part of the school. In order to foster and recognize outstanding teaching at Cumberland, two alumni provided a generous gift to endow the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award. Two Jackson Teaching Awards are given each year--one to a professor who teaches first year courses and one to a professor who teaches upper level courses.

Any Cumberland student or faculty member may nominate a professor for the award by sending an email to [Dean Strickland](#) which explains how the nominee meets the criteria for the award. The criteria are (1) mastery of the subject matter; (2) ability to convey information effectively to students; (3) demonstrated enthusiasm for teaching; (4) commitment to excellence in the classroom; (5) innovation in teaching techniques and (6) commitment to students.

You may nominate someone whose course you are currently taking, someone whose course you have taken in the past, or someone with whom you have had other

contact that demonstrates outstanding teaching in relation to the criteria above.

A joint committee of faculty and students will choose the winners, and we will announce the winners in the spring. A faculty member who has won the award in a particular category is not eligible to receive that award again for a period of three years. The faculty members who currently are ineligible to receive the award in a category because they have received it in the past three years are Professors Evans, Greene (Bob) and Hartzog (First Year Courses) and Professors DiRusso, Walthall and Young (Upper Level Courses). The names of all of the award winners are on a plaque outside the Great Room.

Please take time to nominate a professor for this important award. In your nomination, please specify which award you are nominating a professor for – the First Year Award or the Upper Level Award and briefly explain why you think the nominee is deserving. Nominations are due by the last day of class of the fall semester. Please submit nominations via e-mail to [Dean Strickland](#).

**Course & Faculty Evaluations Begin November 9!**

*More info to come next week.*

## Law School Announcements

### 3L Class, SBA Sponsor Christmas Package Donation Drive

This year, the 3L class, along with SBA, will be sending Deployed Marines Christmas Care Packages and would love for all of Cumberland to be involved! Last year was the first year Cumberland hosted a military Christmas package donation drive, and we were overwhelmed and humbled by the massive support and participation Cumberland supplied. More detailed emails will be sent throughout November regarding the drive and the multiple ways to get involved.

**WHEN:** Donations taken from Tuesday, November 3 until Monday, November 30

**WHERE:** Donation drop boxes located in Student Lounge and in the SBA office

**WHAT:** Donation list for suggested and prohibited items sent via email

**WHO:** Deployed Marine Platoons in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq and the South Pacific

**WHY:** "Packages from kind and thoughtful people like yourself and your friends always raise our spirits, and are a great reminder as to why we are over here in the first place. So many Americans are so self-absorbed and conceited, and it is truly refreshing to see people like you and your friends who think of others first" - First Lieutenant Eric Todorski, Easy Company, Second Battalion, 7th Marines (received one of Cumberland's Christmas Care Packages, 2014)

If you have any questions, please let any of the 3L Class Officers know, or relay your message to any member of SBA. Additionally, if you personally know of any military members who will be deployed over Christmas, please contact [Weathers Veazey](#). We look forward to sending these small tokens of our gratitude to the men and women fighting for our freedom and safety abroad, and we are appreciative of your help.



## 3L Graduation Announcements



• **Diploma Form** – Students should complete the Graduation Diploma Form at <https://cumberland.samford.edu/form/graduation-candidate-diploma-form> to let us know how you wish to have your name listed on your diploma and the address to which you wish to have your diploma mailed.

• **December Commencement** – Everyone is welcome to attend December commencement exercises to be held on Sat., December 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Pete Hanna Center on the Samford campus. The university does not limit the number of guests each student may invite, so feel free to come out and celebrate with your classmates who plan to walk in the fall commencement.

We will send additional information throughout the year. Be sure to mark your calendar for important dates and let [Mrs. Nelson](#) know if you have questions.

## Alumni News

### Students May Attend Office of Alumni Relations Events



Students and faculty are invited to attend Alumni receptions and luncheons. For students, these are good networking events for those with aspirations to work in a specific location. To confirm your attendance and for full details, please contact [Anne Marovich](#), director of alumni relations.

• **Thur., November 12**

Augusta, Ga Alumni Luncheon Hosted by Sam Nicholson '78 and Judge James G. Blanchard Jr. '68, Augusta Country Club.

If you would like to meet a potential professional mentor, please submit an information (mentee) sheet for our [Student Success Mentoring Program](#). The SSMP program pairs our students with outstanding alumni who will give them a real-world insight into the practice of law. Questions? Ask [Anne Marovich](#).

## This Week's Events

### Alumnus to Meet with Students



Students are invited to spend time on **Thur., November 5** with Cumberland Alumnus Sean Modjarrad '00. Modjarrad received his JD, MBA and Macc in 2000 and is a founding partner of a law firm near Dallas, TX.

Modjarrad emigrated from Tehran, Iran in 1985, just prior to starting high school. Today, Modjarrad's firm includes a team of approximately 20 lawyers plus staff. Among all of them, 10 different languages are spoken there. His firm makes community service a priority and his dedication and service work was recently recognized by the North Asian Texas Democrats. Modjarrad was a founding board member of the Greater Dallas Iranian-American Chamber of Commerce and the Iranian American Bar Association.

There are three opportunities to meet and talk with Modjarrad:

- 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: Do you have questions about earning a joint degree? Or starting your own law practice? Room 235
- 12:40 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.: Sean will be a guest speaker in Judge Carroll's Topics in Professional Responsibility class. He will speak about judicial ethics – from the practicing lawyer's standpoint. Room 235
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: How to find a legal job outside Alabama (attend especially if you are interested in Texas) Cocina Superior Brookwood

For an up-to-date look at the Law School's Events, visit the [Online Calendar](#).

#### Samford's Events

- [Samford University's Public Events](#)
  - [Sporting Events](#)
  - [Performing Arts Calendar](#)
- Click on event titles for more information!**

### CELS Holds Final Fall Semester Meeting

Cumberland Environmental Law Society will hold their last meeting of the fall 2015 semester on **Weds., November 4 at 4:30 p.m. in room 115**. During this meeting we will discuss the club's plans for the spring semester which include: a networking event with local environmental law attorneys, river tour, hiking outings, and fundraising for our end of the year donation to a local nonprofit focused on environmental protection. We will also be discussing ideas for wrapping up the fall semester. Additionally, we are still accepting membership and have some T-Shirts left. Membership dues, which include a T-Shirt are \$15.00. If you can't make the meeting be sure to come out on **Sat. Nov. 14 from 8 a.m. to noon** as we join Homewood in planting 250 small trees along the Greenway (by the running path) across from Samford. For more information email CELS President [Kayla Currie](#).

## JOIN WIL IN THE ANNUAL CANNED FOOD DRIVE.



PLEASE DONATE NON-PERISHABLE GOODS IN THE BREEZEWAY OR STUDENT LOUNGE BY NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>.



Women in Law will host a canned food drive November 3-19. All donations will go to the Salvation Army to help replenish and sustain food pantries for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Help WIL feed the homeless during the holidays.

## Plan Ahead



### The Alabama Trial Attorney:

LITIGATION LESSONS FROM BIRMINGHAM'S FINEST

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015 | 9 AM - 2:45 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 8 AM)

John L. Carroll Moot Court Room  
Cumberland School of Law | Samford University

Presented by: The Cumberland Law Review



**PLEASE JOIN US** for the Cumberland Law Review's 2015 symposium, "The Alabama Trial Attorney: Litigation Lessons from Birmingham's Finest." This event will provide a forum for outstanding trial lawyers to share their expertise with legal professionals and promote the law school's commitment to continuing legal scholarship. **Four (4) hours of free CLE credit will be available to attendees.** The Cumberland Law Review is excited and honored to be able to bring together such a prestigious group of speakers at one event.

#### SPEAKERS:

- Rodney A. Max, Upchurch Watson White & Max
- Michael D. Mulvaney, Maynard Cooper & Gale, PC
- David H. Marsh, Marsh Rickard & Bryan, PC
- Walter William "Billy" Bates, Starnes Davis Florie, LLP
- Chris Zulanas, Friedman Dazzio Zulanas & Bowling, PC

RSVP is required to [lawrev@samford.edu](mailto:lawrev@samford.edu)

CUMBERLAND



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## AL State Bar Application Meeting

May 2016 graduates planning to sit for the Alabama State Bar will begin filling out bar applications January 1, with a deadline of February 1 for all submissions. Justin Aday, the director of admission for the Alabama State Bar, will hold a meeting on **Tues., November 10 at 11 a.m. in the Moot Courtroom** to explain the process and address any concerns. All 3Ls planning to make application to the Alabama State Bar are encouraged to attend. If you have questions, please see Mrs. Nelson in Student Services.

## Fall Competitions at Cumberland

- Cumberland will be hosting the **ABA Regional Negotiation Competition** Sat. November 14 - Sun., November 15.

## Faculty Notes



On Mon., November 2, **Judge John Carroll** '74 was one of the featured speakers for the University of Alabama's Honors College Fall Town Hall series. The topic was "Politics, Ethics and Lobbying."



On October 21, **Professor Woodrow Hartzog** '02 gave two talks at the first [Privacy + Data Security Forum](#) in Washington D.C. His first talk was with FTC staff attorney Kevin Moriarity called "Understanding the FTC on Privacy and Data Security."

His second talk was with FTC Commissioner Terrell McSweeney on "The FTC and Data Security." Additional information can be found [here](#).

On October 22-26, **Hartzog** presented two papers, "Anonymization and Risk" (with Ira Rubinstein) and "Taking Trust Seriously in Privacy Law" (with Neil Richards) at the [Amsterdam Privacy Conference](#). He also moderated a panel on Big Data and privacy at the event.



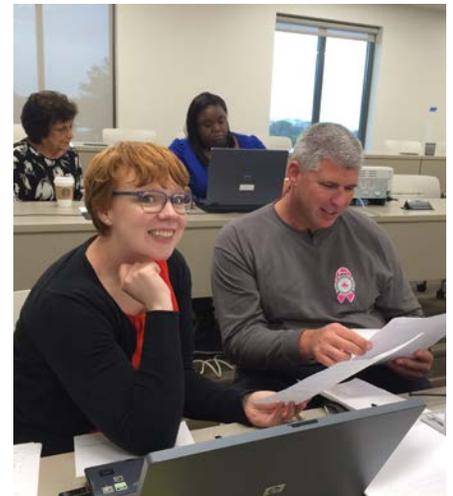
**Grace L. Simms**, Information Technology Librarian, attended the Internet Librarian conference in Monterey, CA, October 25-28, 2015. At the conference, she presented "Open-Access or Open-Your-Wallet: Selecting Free and Fee-Based Information Resources" during the Searches Academy.

# Photos of the Week



*The Women in Law bake sale was a huge success. Thank you all for your donations and support. We hope that the goodies helped kick start your Halloween Celebration. Thanks to the Cumberland Family, we were able to donate \$200.00 to Oasis Counseling for Women and Children. The mission of Oasis is “to help women and children heal, grow and overcome difficult life circumstances by providing affordable mental health counseling and innovative educational programs in a respectful*

*and nurturing environment.” WIL is working hard this year to help raise awareness and support for the women and children in our community. We appreciate all of the support.*



*Students volunteered at Wills Clinics for heroes and senior citizens last week during Pro Bono Month.*

Want to see your photos featured?  
Send them to [Laura Taylor](#) for inclusion  
in upcoming editions of the Dean's Newsletter