

# The Dean's Weekly Newsletter



*A weekly semester publication for law students, faculty and staff*

**Week of November 17, 2014**

## Adams Travels to Cuba to Discuss Dispute Resolution



Cassandra Adams is pictured with municipal court judges from Havana, Cuba.

Cassandra W. Adams, director of Cumberland's Mediation Center and Public Interest Program, travelled to Havana, Cuba, as a member of the American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Delegation to learn about the country's use of mediation and arbitration November 8-15, 2014. In Cuba, the delegation met and exchanged information with several groups and organizations including professors from the University of Havana, a local trade union discussing labor mediation, members of the Cuban Society of Constitutional & Administrative Law, and the Cuban Society of Civil & Family Law at the UNJC headquarters and municipal court judges. ♣

**"Like"** Cumberland School of Law on Facebook to get all the latest updates. The official Facebook page is "[Cumberland School of Law](#)" and the official Twitter account is "[CumberlandLaw](#)"

*In This Edition*

- Cuba Trip
- International Students
- Environmental Legislation Speaker
- Teaching Awards Nominations
- 2015 Student-Led Events
- Tax Lawyer Event

- Announcements
- Faculty Note
- Photo of the Week:  
"Kickin for Kids"

Send your weekly content submissions to Derrek Smith, director of law communication, at [dsmith@samford.edu](mailto:dsmith@samford.edu).



## UEA Students Return in the Spring, NALSAR's Kundu Spends Last Few Weeks at Cumberland

As the semester winds down I hope you had an opportunity to meet and interact with our international students from the University of East Anglia (UEA) and NALSAR.

The UEA students will return for the spring semester. Ishani from NALSAR is here only for the fall semester; therefore, wish her well as she spends her last few weeks at Cumberland.

- Rob (Robert) Ireland  
Worcester, UK, UEA
- Emma Smith  
Horsham, West Sussex, UK, UEA
- Ishani Kundu  
New Delhi, India, NALSAR ♣

Photo (from left)

- Alex (Alexandra) Coleman  
Fritton-on-Sea, Essex, UK, UEA
- Becky (Rebecca) White  
York, UK, UEA



## **Time is running out --make your Nominations ASAP**

### **Nominate a Professor for the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in 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.

Students are encouraged to nominate professors for these awards. Any Cumberland student or faculty member may nominate a professor for the award by sending an email to Dean Henry 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;
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 and Hartzog (First Year Courses) and Professors Ross, Johnson, DiRusso and Walthall (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 at [hcstrick@samford.edu](mailto:hcstrick@samford.edu). ☐

### **Former Chief of Staff to Senator & Secretary of State Muskie Visits Nov. 21 to Talk Environmental Legislation– *Anyone can Attend***

Leon Billings visits Cumberland School of Law Fri., Nov. 21. Prof. Billings' visit is described as "A Conversation with ...", as he has been asked to talk about:

- the consensus built around environmental legislation in the 1970s,
- why that consensus broke apart over time, and
- what he sees as the prospects for bipartisan action in the future.

Anyone who would like to is welcome to participate. **The "conversation" will be held at 11 am, Fri., Nov. 21, in the Law Library's Friendship Room.**

Contact:  
Professor Bob Greene

#### **Billings' Bio**

Leon G. Billings is former Chief of Staff to Senator and Secretary of State Edmund S. Muskie (D.ME) and former executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. In his role as staff director of the Senate environment subcommittee from 1966-78 he was primary staff author of the federal Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. He also served in the Maryland General Assembly for twelve years. Currently, he is team teaching a course on "The Origins of Environmental Law" at Columbia University with his former minority counsel colleague, Tom Jorling.

## Plan Ahead for Some Great Student-Led Events on Campus Next Year

### "Representing the Race"

*Thurgood Marshall Symposium*

Feb. 20, 2015

Featuring

Harvard Professor & Author  
Kenneth Mack



...

### "Practicing Law in the Age of Surveillance and Hackers"

*American Journal of Trial Advocacy Symposium*

Feb. 27, 2015

Featuring

- Harvey Rishikof – Co-Chair of the American Bar Association Cybersecurity Legal Task Force; Chair of Advisory Committee for the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security
- Brian Levine – Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division
- Marc Jenkins – Associate General Counsel and Executive Vice President-Knowledge Strategy at Cicyada; Adjunct Professor at Vanderbilt in "Electronic Discovery and Information Governance and Technology in Legal Practice"
- Among others



...

*Cumberland Law Review Symposium*  
March 27, 2015

Office of Career Development

### Breakfast with a Tax Lawyer

Insight into the Tax LL.M.  
Application Process & Tax Practice

Thurs., Nov. 20, at 8 a.m.  
Bishop Conference Room

#### Sims Rhyne, Tax Lawyer

Sims is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP. His practice focuses primarily on the areas of federal and state and local taxation. Sims graduated from Cumberland School of Law in 2012 and received his LL.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law.

[RSVP](#)

## Announcements

### Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program

Each month, a representative from the Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program is available in Student Services, room 124, to converse with students regarding concerns they might have related to character and fitness for the Alabama State Bar. Robert Thornhill, director, will be here Thurs., Nov. 20, from 9-11 a.m. For more information please contact Pam Nelson, director of student services & ADA compliance at [pjnelson@samford.edu](mailto:pjnelson@samford.edu). ϕ

...

### Join the Office of Alumni Relations at 3 Upcoming Events

Students and faculty are invited to attend these receptions and luncheons. For students, these are good networking events for anyone with aspirations to work in a specific location.

To confirm your attendance and for full details, please contact Anne Marovich, director of alumni relations, at [amarovic@samford.edu](mailto:amarovic@samford.edu).

- 1) Augusta, GA, Alumni Reception**  
Thurs., Nov. 20, home of Sam Nicholson '78
- 2) Dothan, AL, Area Alumni Reception**  
Thurs., Dec. 4, home of Holly Sawyer '05
- 3) South Florida Alumni Reception, Fort Lauderdale**  
Wed., Dec. 10 ϕ



### Faculty Note

“The ‘no privacy in public information’ argument is flawed because we don’t even know what public information means,” said **Prof. Woodrow Hartzog** to UNC students in the Introduction to Media Law course. A recap of the talk is published in the [Daily Tarheel](#).



# Photo of the Week



The kickball team consisting of first-year section 3 members Anthony Bowling, Kevin Buford, Rebecca Guidry, Depri Hale, Kate Furek and Lee McLean participated in the "Kickin for the Kids!!" Photo submitted by Kate Furek

***"Kickin for the Kids!!,"*** the Public Interest and Community Service's inaugural kickball tournament, raised more than \$600 dollars to purchase Christmas presents for Court Appointed Special Advocates children.

## Kickball Tournament

- Winners: Public Interest and Community Service/Phi Alpha Delta Team
- Runners Up: Florida Student Bar Association

