



# The Dean's Weekly Newsletter

## Henry C. Strickland III

Dean & Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law

Week of October 12, 2015

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## Cumberland Advances to Quarter Finals at UF Advocacy Tournament



(from left to right) Austin Evans, Lauren Lock, Priyanka Patel and Cydney Reynolds advanced to the quarter finals at the National Trial Advocacy Tournament at the University of Florida.

The University of Florida Levin College of Law hosted its second National Trial Advocacy Tournament Friday through Saturday, October. 9-11, in Gainesville, Fla.

Cumberland's team Austin Evans (2L), Lauren Lock (2L), Priyanka Patel (3L) and Cydney Reynolds (3L) swept all but one judge ballot in the preliminaries to advance to the quarter-finals. In that trial they faced Akron and lost the round by 1 point. Congratulations to all on a great job.

Special congratulations to Lauren Lock who won the award for best closing argument. Coaches for the team were Allison Taylor, '03, and Ross Massey, '11.

## Trial Advocacy Board Hosts Client Counseling Competition

The Trial Advocacy Board hosted the 2015 Governor Albert Brewer Client Counseling Competition on October 11. A group of exceptionally well-spoken Cumberland students took part in three rounds of competition simulating an initial client intake interview. Please join us in congratulating our finalists and winners:

**Finalists:** Miranda Coley, Nicolas Gutierrez, Kelly Masters, and Scott Woodard

**Winner:** Miranda Coley  
**Runner-Up:** Kelly Masters

Several of the competitors will receive invitations to join the National Client Counseling Team later this week.

The Trial Advocacy Board also thanks the client-judges who made the evening possible: Professor Belle Stoddard, Attorneys Virginia Miller and Megan Elder, Cumberland alumna Krista Cowley, Client Counseling Team members Joey Gomez, Elise McFall, and Michelle Spiker, Associate Client Counseling Director Neil Zaveri, and Senior Trial Board Member Richard Sarrell.



(from left to right) Nicolas Gutierrez, Miranda Coley, Scott Woodard and Kelly Masters are the finalists of the 2015 Governor Albert Brewer Client Counseling Competition. Coley earned top honors in the Competition.

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"



## This Week's Events

### Career Development Events

#### Career Opportunities in Labor and Employment Law

The Labor and Employment Section of the American Bar Association invites you to attend a Panel Discussion on **Thurs., October 15 at 11 a.m. in Room 120**. Lunch will be served to those who [register](#) by Weds., October 14 at 10 a.m.

The panel discussion will be an opportunity to see labor and employment law from the following perspectives: an employee/plaintiff lawyer, union lawyer, government lawyer and a management lawyer. The specific speakers and their firms are listed below. This will be a unique program with a lot to offer.

- Employee/Plaintiff Lawyer - Temple Trueblood, Wiggins, Childs, Quinn & Pantazis, LLC
- Neutral & Government - Debra Leo, DLeo & Associates
- Union - George Davies, Quinn, Connor, Weaver, Davies & Rouco, LLP
- Management - Kimberly W. Geisler, Scott Dukes & Geisler, PC

Questions, contact [Mrs. Nicole Otero](#) or visit the Office of Career Development.

### Komen Race for the Cure Saturday

North Central Alabama's [Komen Race For The Cure](#) is Sat., October 17 at 9 a.m. at Linn Park. Victoria Burnett and Haley Jones have created a Cumberland team to run the race together, and it's open to anyone who wants to participate and raise awareness and funds for the fight against breast cancer. Registration is \$35. The team name is Cumberland and Burnett is the team leader. For more information, contact [Haley Jones](#).

### Professor Kuruk to Speak at International Law Students Association Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Cumberland International Law Students Association on **Thurs. October 15 at 11 a.m. in room 235**. Guest Speaker will be Professor Paul Kuruk.

### Thursday's 'Called to the Bar' Highlights Study Skills

On **Thurs., October 15**, the Called to the Bar speaker is Dr. Steven Chew, the Chair of Samford's Psychology Department, who will present a talk entitled "How to Study Effectively." Dr. Chew is a nationally-recognized expert in cognitive psychology and the psychology of learning. He has won numerous teaching awards and was named the Carnegie Foundation's College Teacher of the Year in 2011. The talk will take place at 1:30 p.m. in the Great Room.

### Cumberland Offers 3Ls Discounts on Bar Review

The law school is finalizing arrangements with BarBri and Kaplan to help students pay for bar review courses. Students have received emails with further details about the structure of the programs. BarBri and Kaplan will hold informational meetings each semester to describe their courses and services.

A deadline will be set by which students must select which of these courses they wish to take. December 2015 graduates must select either the BarBri or Kaplan course by 3:00 p.m. on Thurs., October 15. May graduates will have to select early in the spring semester. Pam Nelson will send an email to provide details about (i) how you must notify us of your choice and (ii) how and when you will need to pay your portion of the cost. If you have questions about these arrangements, you may contact [Pam Nelson](#) or [Dean Strickland](#).

To assist in decisions, BarBri and Kaplan will hold informational meetings, open to all 3Ls, to describe their courses and services at the following times:

**BarBri: Tues., October 13 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 123.**

**Kaplan: Thurs., October 15 at 11:00 a.m. in Room 114.**

In addition to these sessions, you may view information about [BarBri](#) and [Kaplan](#) via their YouTube videos.

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

## Law School Announcements

### Spring Course Registration Updates

#### Spring 2016 Registration for Advanced Trial Advocacy Course

If you would like to be considered for the spring 2016 Advanced Trial Advocacy course, please send an email to [Mrs. Tracy Luke](#).

Students are selected for the course based on their overall GPA, Basic Skills grade, and Evidence grade. If you have not completed Basic Skills, Mrs. Luke will estimate your final grade for this process.

Only 12 students will be selected. Note: Advanced Trial WILL NOT be offered during the fall 2016 semester.

#### Spring 2016 Externship Registration Meeting

Would you like to work for a federal judge, the District Attorney, or a corporation for class credit? These are some of the positions available through Cumberland's externship program.

Spring 2016 registration meeting for Externships will be held **Tues. October 13, in room 121 from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Information packets and registration materials will be available at this meeting. Professor Young will be on hand to explain the program and answer any questions you may have.

If you do not attend the meeting you can pick up the packet in suite 201 after 1:00 p.m. on October 13.

Consideration for placements will first be extended to those that attend the meeting and return their applications by the deadline.

### Competitions Take Place Throughout Fall

- The **Intraschool Mediation Competition** will take place on Sun., October 18 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. If you have any questions, contact [Landon Graham](#) or [Richard Sarrell](#).
- Cumberland will be hosting the **ABA Regional Negotiation Competition** Saturday November 14 - Sunday November 15.

### 3L Graduation Announcements

- **Bulldog Blastoff!** – If you are a December graduate, you should have received information from Samford regarding a commencement fair to be held Wed., October 21, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the lobby of the Pete Hanna Center. **ALL** December graduates need to attend. This year, for the first time, the university is issuing graduation regalia at the commencement fair. May graduates will participate in a similar commencement fair to be held in the spring.

- **Composite Photographs** – Fraternal Composite will be in the Friendship Room of the Law Library, 9 a.m.- noon and 2:00 –4:00 p.m., on October 27-28 to photograph all graduating 3Ls for inclusion in a large composite photograph to be displayed at the law school. Appointments may be scheduled in the Student Services Office. Important notes: Professional dress (waist up) is required. Photographs from our internal facebook may not be used.

- **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.



## Plan Ahead

### Birmingham Bar Foundation Invites Students to Events

Students are invited to attend “[Being Your Own Best Advocate: How to Get from Law Student to Lawyer.](#)” A distinguished panel including large firm partners, a public defender, an in-house counsel, and a Circuit Court Judge shares tips and insight on successful transitioning from law school to the practice of law on **Thurs., October 22, from 4-5:30 p.m.** at the Bar Center. Law Student members who attend the program will get free admission to the Seventh Annual Bocce Ball Tournament and Chili Cook-off. [RSVP](#) to save your seat.

The Seventh Annual Bocce Ball Tournament will be held on **Thur., October 22**. The Birmingham Bar Foundation would love to have Cumberland students join us for this outstanding networking event. The Foundation is offering a law student discount rate of \$15. There will be great food, lots of fun and, again, great networking opportunities with Birmingham law firms (big and small). Tickets may be purchased at [birminghambar.org](http://birminghambar.org) or at [bbfound.org](http://bbfound.org) or at the door.

 SPONSORED BY THE BIRMINGHAM BAR FOUNDATION



Proceeds raised will benefit the Legal Aid Society of Birmingham and the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Contact the Birmingham Bar Foundation at 251-2231 or [bbfound@bellsouth.net](mailto:bbfound@bellsouth.net) for more information

 WIGGINS CHILDS PANTAZIS FISHER & GOLDFARB  
301 19TH STREET NORTH  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA  
35203

FEATURING  
OUR 2ND ANNUAL  
CHILI COOK-OFF

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015**  
**START TIME: 3:30 PM**

**TICKETS \$25 LAW STUDENTS TICKETS \$15**

### State Bar of Georgia Representative to Visit

Come join the Georgia Student Bar in welcoming the State Bar of Georgia to Cumberland on **Thurs. October 22 at 11 a.m. in room 115**. Everyone is invited. A representative from the bar will provide some very helpful information about bar membership, the Ga. bar exam, subjects covered on the Ga. bar, Ga. bar and exam application deadlines, suggested classes to take at Cumberland and much more. There will be an opportunity for a Q&A and food will be provided. [RSVP](#) by Oct. 20. Contact [Shadi Jaraysi](#) for more information.

### Birmingham Bar Association Offers Scholarships

The Memorial Scholarship Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association meets each year to determine the recipients of scholarships in the amount of \$2,500.00 each. Second or third year law students from either Cumberland School of Law, The University of Alabama School of Law, Birmingham School of Law, or Miles Law School are eligible to apply.

Two scholarships are awarded annually by the Scholarship Committee. The scholarships are based upon several factors, including financial need. Applications will be accepted beginning August 1, and the deadline to submit is **Fri., October 30**. Awards will be made directly to the recipients' law schools for the Spring 2016 semester.

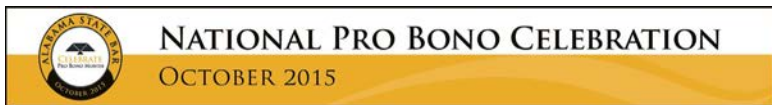
[Download a Scholarship application form](#) for the Spring 2016 semester to apply.

#### Samford's Events

- [Samford University's Public Events](#)
- [Sporting Events](#)
- [Performing Arts Calendar](#)

**Click on event titles  
for more information!**

**Plan Ahead**



**PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES**

**Thursday, October 22, 2015**

Free Senior Wills Clinic

**Location:** Oxmoor Community Center—1992 Weno-nah Oxmoor Rd, Birmingham, AL 35211

**Volunteer Contact:**

Cassandra Adams or Charmayne Fillmore – (205) 726-4342 or [ccmc@samford.edu](mailto:ccmc@samford.edu)



**Monday & Tuesday, October 26-27, 2015 – 9:00am - 5:00pm**

Free Wills for Heroes Clinic

**Location:** New Vestavia Hills Municipal Center– 1032 Montgomery Hwy, Vestavia Hills, AL 35216

**Volunteer Contact:** Cassandra Adams or Charmayne Fillmore – (205) 726-4342 or [ccmc@samford.edu](mailto:ccmc@samford.edu)

**Monday, November 2, 2015—9:00am—3:00pm**

Free Wills for Heroes & Seniors Clinic

**Location:** Bessemer Municipal Center—1851 2nd Avenue, Bessemer, AL 35020

**Volunteer Contact:** Cassandra Adams or Charmayne Fillmore – (205) 726-4342 or [ccmc@samford.edu](mailto:ccmc@samford.edu)

Clinics are sponsored by the Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Program, Alabama State Bar, Birmingham Bar Association and Bessemer Bar Association



*October  
is Pro  
Bono  
Month in  
Alabama*

**Faculty & Staff Notes**



**Cassandra W. Adams** was the special guest and presenter at the 2015 Successful Aging Initiative Conference on Thurs., October 8 in Huntsville, Ala. The conference, hosted by Alabama Cooperative Extension System of Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities, focused on providing educational opportunities and resources for Alabama’s underserved older adults, their families and caregivers on issues relating to aging and estate planning.



**Professor Herman “Rusty” Johnson** wrote a [blog](#) about Dishonor in Alabama that was published by the Alabama Constitution Society.



On September 25, **Professor Wendy Greene** presented her paper, Racial Slavery, Reparations, and “The Multiracial Distraction” in Brazilian and American Race-Conscious Affirmative Jurisprudence, at the centennial anniversary conference for the Association for the Study of African American Life & History in Atlanta, Ga. On October 9, during the “Critical Race Theory and Empirical Methods” workshop held at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Professor Greene moderated a panel entitled “#BlackWisconsinLivesMatter: What Can eCRT Add to the Movement?”

## 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.

- **Tues., October 13**

Nashville Area Alumni Reception at Lewis Thomason, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., 424 Church St. Suite 2500, Nashville, TN. Co-sponsored by cicayda. RSVP to [Anne Marovich](#).

- **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](#).

## Photo of the Week



*Professor J. Mark Baggett speaks at the Law Libraries Association of Alabama fall meeting. The Beeson Law Library hosted the event last week.*

*The fall meeting of the Law Libraries Association of Alabama was hosted by the Beeson Law Library on Fri., October 9. The meetings were held in Cumberland's Great Room and guest speakers included Samford's J. Mark Baggett, Associate Professor of English and Law, and Alan D. Stevens, Executive Director of Samford's Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education. Following the afternoon meeting, J. Howard Finch, Dean of Samford Brock School of Business, gave the librarians a guided tour of Cooney Hall, the new business school building.*