



Samford University  
Cumberland School of Law

# The Dean's Weekly Newsletter

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Dean & Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law

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## Law School Announcements

### Cumberland School of Law National Trial Team

— **Stephanie Gushlaw ('19), Jennifer JayJohn ('19), Craig Shirley ('19), Andrew York ('19), and Denzell Moton ('19)** won first place this past weekend in the National Civil Trial Competition Championship hosted by Loyola Los Angeles School of Law. The team defeated Stetson University College of Law, Baylor University School of Law, Temple University Beasley School of Law, and Chicago Kent School of Law. This victory over four teams that are ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* in "The top ten law schools for Trial Advocacy," is even more impressive because all the team members are 2L students who have never participated in a national competition before. Andrew York won Best Advocate in the final round. The team was coached by Judge **Jim Roberts ('94)** and **Sara Williams ('06)**.



*Pictured (left): Andrew York with his award for Best Advocate; Pictured (right, L-R): Craig Shirley, Denzell Moton, Judge Jim Roberts, Andrew York, Jennifer JayJohn, and Stephanie Gushlaw*

### Cumberland School of Law National Trial Team Members

— **Keith Stephens ('18), Candace Towns ('18), Kameron Buckner ('19), and J.B. Brown ('19)** - competed October 20-22, 2017, in Pontiac, Michigan, at the National Trial Advocacy Competition hosted by the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan. Including a bye round, the team went undefeated in the tournament, taking first place honors with a 5:0 record. Stephens and Towns advocated for the defendant, and Buckner and Brown advocated for the plaintiff in a civil racial profiling case. The Cumberland students defeated teams from Duquesne University School of Law, University of Illinois, Wayne State University, and The John Marshall Law School. Candace Towns received an individual award for Best Direct Examination after her brilliant witness presentation in the round against Duquesne. **Setara Foster ('12)** and **Matt Woodham ('15)** coached the team. "I could not be more proud of these students. It is incredible what they have accomplished, especially with three of our advocates never having been to a competition before," said Woodham. Foster agreed and added, "These amazing young men and women have grown tremendously as advocates. I could not be more proud of Keith, Candace, Kameron, and J.B. They embody everything great about Cumberland Law!"



*Pictured (left, L-R): Keith Stephens, Candace Towns, Setara Foster, Kameron Buckner, and J.B. Brown at the National Trial Advocacy Competition in Michigan; Pictured (right): Candace Towns with her award for Best Direct Examination.*

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



### Lone Star Classic National Trial Team

➤ A team of second-year and third-year law students competed this past weekend in the Lone Star Classic Trial Competition hosted by St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas. The team— **Callie Brister, Ashley Feltman, Morgan Hoggle** and **Kingsley Okpara** —faced SUNY Buffalo Law School, University of South Carolina School of Law, and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, who eventually went on to win the tournament. Cumberland's **Kingsley Okpara** won the award for Best Opening Statement out of the sixteen teams and sixty-four advocates competing in the event. This team was coached by **Spenser Templeton '15** and **Stewart Alvis '17**.

*Pictured Left:* Kingsley Okpara with his award for Best Opening Statement in San Antonio, Texas

**Congratulations to Drew Bentley (3L)** and **Amanda Wineman (3L)**, who came in 2nd and 3rd place, respectively, in the Heninger Garrison Davis 3rd Annual "In Summation" closing argument competition.

➤ Off-campus group HGD holds this competition for local law school students to help promote advocacy and reward those law students for advancing their advocacy skills. Held in the newly dedicated Stephen D. Heninger Moot Court Room, the original field of competitors was narrowed down to a top six who paired off in the final round. For the final round, the competitors had to switch sides from their original argument in the first round. Cumberland students **Tiffany Simms** and **Steven Cole** also made it to the final round (top 6 competitors). Drew and Amanda will receive monetary awards from HGD for their success.



The Cumberland chapter of the American Constitutional Society held its inaugural event entitled *Judicial Ethics*, on Wednesday, October 18, 2017, featuring guest speaker **Judge John Carroll**. He spoke about his role in judicial ethics with regards to Chief Justice Moore. Judge Carroll gave insightful information including an overview of the ethical laws regarding judges, the history of the case, and the trial itself. Following his speech, the floor was opened for questions.

*Featured from Left:* Kimberly Fasking, Joseph Page, Caroline Savage, Michelle Herd, Adam LeRoy, and Julianne Zilahy

## Law School Announcements



Please join Samford University's  
Cumberland School of Law  
faculty, staff, graduates, families, and  
friends for a reception honoring the

**CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW**  
**December 2017 Graduates**

Saturday, December 16  
9:45a.m.—11:00a.m.

**Cumberland School of Law**  
Robinson Hall  
South Lobby

800 Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35229

### A monument

to honor **Judge James E. Horton Jr.** (Cumberland class of 1899) was dedicated in front of the Limestone County Courthouse, Athens, AL, on October 13th.

➤ In 1933, Judge Horton set aside the verdict and death sentence of an all-white jury that found an African American young man guilty of rape.

Knowing his unpopular decision would end his career, he stood by the rule of law and upheld the dignity and integrity of the court. Judge Horton's judicial philosophy may be summed up in a phrase he learned on his mother's knee: *"Let Justice Be Done Though the Heavens May Fall."*



## This Week's Events

### Spring 2018 Bid Point Registration

**B**id point registration will open on **Tuesday, October 24th** and continue until **Friday, October 27th**. Registration forms may be picked up in the office of law student records beginning at **8:30 am on Tuesday, October 24th**. Class schedules and grids are posted on the web site [here](#) and are also available in the records office. Questions regarding spring registration may be directed to Ms. Harris in the records office.

### Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program

Robert Thornhill, Director of the Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program, will be on campus **Thursday, October 26th** to meet with students who have questions regarding character and fitness for the Bar. Please stop by Student Services between **9 am and 11 am** if you would like to speak with him about any concerns or if you just want to know a friendly face from the Alabama State Bar!



## Plan Ahead

### Students are invited to attend the 5th Annual Veterans Disability Symposium on Friday, November 3, 2017 in Birmingham, Alabama.

This year's theme is "The Invisible Wounds of War: The Unseen Moral, Mental, and Physical Injuries Challenging Today's Veteran." The Symposium will be held at the Lakeshore Foundation Conference Center, and is co-sponsored by The Deep South Center for Occupational Health & Safety at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama — School of Social Work, and Friedman Law Firm, P.C.

The Symposium will be kicked off by Dr. Stuart Hoffman, Scientific

Program Manager, VA/ORD Rehabilitation Research and Development Service.

A distinguished faculty, many of whom are veterans themselves, will participate in panel discussions on Traumatic Brain Injury, Moral Injury, and Veterans Reintegration.

Please click on this link to see details on all the speakers and to register your attendance: [http://www.soph.uab.edu/dsc/disability-veterans-symposium\\_2017](http://www.soph.uab.edu/dsc/disability-veterans-symposium_2017)

The Symposium will include a continental breakfast and lunch at the venue.



## From the Nixon White House to Trump Tower: A Unique Look at Executive Power with a Focus on Supreme Court Appointments featuring John Dean and James Robenalt

Birmingham Bar Association  
November 1, 2017  
8:30 a.m to 11:45 a.m.  
3 CLE hours, including 1 hour of ethics



John W. Dean  
Counsel to President Richard Nixon,  
Author & CNN Commentator



James D. Robenalt  
Thompson Hine LLP

Cumberland students, faculty and staff can attend the seminar for \$10.00, the cost of the coursebook. To attend, please contact Karen Larsen at [klarsen@samford.edu](mailto:klarsen@samford.edu).

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## Plan Ahead

### Cumberland to Host Alabama Court of Civil Appeals and the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals

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

- **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**
- **9:00 am – 12:00 pm**
- **Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center**

The Court of Civil Appeals will be heard from 9:30 am – 10:30 am. and the Court of Criminal Appeals will be heard from 10:45 am – 11:45 am

The *Cumberland Law Review* has published a summary of the briefs for the cases to be argued on campus before both appellate courts. Summaries are available at



Christian Feldman (left) and Alex Thrasher (right)

<https://cumberlandlawreview.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/thrasher-hicks-v-state.pdf> and <https://cumberlandlawreview.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/feldman-keith-v-lefleur.pdf> The briefs were written by two members of the *Cumberland Law Review*, Christian Feldman and Alex Thrasher.

### Lunch & Learn with Judicial Clerks

Thursday, November 16 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Great Room

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lunch-learn-with-judicial-clerks-tickets-38783530584>

Description: Why should you consider a judicial clerkship? Come listen to panelist Katie Gibson, Jonathan Griffith, and Sarah Osborne discuss their experiences clerking and how they were able to find a federal judicial clerkship.

### Federal Judicial Clerkship Resumes Book

2Ls and 3Ls who are interested in applying to a federal judicial clerkship can now submit their resumes to our Opt-In Books on Symplicity. We will circulate your resumes to federal judges interested in hiring judicial clerks.

## Faculty Notes



**Judge Carroll** will be in Tuscon, Arizona this week attending a meeting of a drafting committee, the Uniform Law Commission, which is seeking to harmonize the law of Canada and the United States regarding the Registration of Foreign Judgments. Judge Carroll was appointed to be a member of this drafting committee in March of this year.



# Photo of the Week



Students enjoyed the incredible weather last week (while developing healthy stress management skills) on the Quad practicing Cumberland Yoga!

- Cumberland Yoga meets every Thursday this semester. Times may vary (check your Samford e-mail for changes in time or location).

*From left:* 1Ls Jackie Satchell, Brooke Messina, and Jessica Hunter

**Want to see your photos featured?**

Send them to [Erin Carroll](#) for inclusion in upcoming editions of the Dean's Newsletter.