



Samford University  
Cumberland School of Law

# The Dean's Weekly Newsletter

**Henry C. Strickland III**

Dean & Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law

Week of October 30, 2017

## In This Edition

This Week's Events | Plan Ahead | Announcements | Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Programs News | Faculty Notes | Photo of the Week

## This Week's Events

The first Thursday of each month students are invited to participate in an informal chat with the university counselor, Rich Yoakum, about ways to manage the stresses of law school.

This could be particularly helpful as we near the end of the semester.

Join us at **Cooney Hall (business school), Room 105 at 7:30 am** this **Thursday morning, November 2**. Coffee and bagels will be provided!

## 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.

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

### 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

### 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.

## 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



Cumberland's Christian Legal Society hosted James Spann on Thursday, October 19, 2017. Spann gave a speech discussing how events and decisions stemming from his life have played a significant part in his current walk in faith. He went on to expound upon the importance of using your life as an opportunity to minister to others and the importance of how you spend your time. He closed with making three points about life and the Christian faith: "Whatever you do, always do it on purpose, with integrity, and with a servant's heart."

# Law School Announcements

## GUN LAWS

“SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST GUN SUICIDE”



11:00 AM

NOVEMBER 9TH

GREAT ROOM

Professor Fred Vars of the University of Alabama School of Law will explain his proposal to allow individuals to put their *own* names into the firearm background check system to prevent their own future gun purchases. This proposal could help prevent some of the hundreds of suicides each year involving recently purchased guns. He will discuss his proposal and the constitutional concerns along with commentary from gun law expert Dean Brannon Denning.

### Fred Vars

*Professor Vars is a Professor at the University of Alabama School of Law. His research interests include mental health and empirical analysis of law. He has previously published articles on gun laws in the Harvard Journal on Legislation and Boston College Law Review. For more information and to sign a petition, visit <https://stopgunsuicide.com/>*



LUNCH PROVIDED

# Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Programs News

The Alabama State Bar awarded a Law Student Pro-Bono mini-grant for 2017 to the Cumberland Public Interest and Community Service Organization (CPICS) in the amount of \$500. The grant will assist more homeless community members by providing resources to meals and referral information to legal services. Congratulations CPICS!!

## Faculty Notes



**Judge Carroll** will be in Phoenix, Arizona this week attending the annual meeting of Working Group I of the Sedona Conference. The Sedona Conference is one of the country's leading litigation think tanks and Working Group I is the working group which focuses on issues relating to the discovery of electronically stored information. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Sedona Conference and will be attending the semi-annual Board meeting on Saturday.

## Photo of the Week



Meet the new program assistant, Bonita, in the Alumni office in room 130!

**Want to see your photos featured?**

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