



Samford University  
Cumberland School of Law

# The Dean's Weekly Newsletter

**Henry C. Strickland III**

Dean & Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law

Week of November 6, 2017

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## Congratulations!



This past weekend, members of Cumberland School of Law's National Trial Team—**Allison Bendall ('19)**, **Brooke DiSalvo ('19)**, **Dylan Sutherland ('18)**, and **Carmen Weite ('18)**—won first place in the Florida National Trial Advocacy Tournament hosted by University of Florida, Levin College of Law, in Gainesville, Florida. This is Cumberland's first win at this national competition.

In the final round, Sutherland and Weite advocated for the prosecution and defeated Fordham University School of Law. In the semi-final round, Bendall and DiSalvo defeated Fordham's other team. Going into the final round, Cumberland students had won every scorer's ballot in previous rounds against Florida State University College of Law, West Virginia University

*Left: Carmen Weite with her award for Best Advocate  
Right, pictured L-R: Blake Milner, Carmen Weite, Justice Neloms, Dylan Sutherland, Allison Bendall, Brooke DiSalvo, and Jeremy Hazelton*

College of Law, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and Fordham University School of Law. Carmen Weite earned individual recognition as the competition's Best Advocate. The team was assisted in preparation by **Justice Neloms ('19)** and was coached by **Jeremy Hazelton ('02)** and **Blake Milner ('14)**. Coach Hazelton stated, "Blake and I are incredibly proud of the amount of work and dedication each team member put into our championship effort. Each one of them is a credit to our school, a credit to our trial program, and a credit to our profession."

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](#)"



## Congratulations!

This weekend, **Amanda Wineman ('18)**, **Krista Tribble ('18)**, **Denzel Okinedo ('19)**, and **Walt Cobb ('19)** competed in the National Board of Trial Advocacy Tournament of Champions in Los Angeles, California. **Paige West ('19)**, a member of the 2017-18 Trial Team, accompanied the team and aided in preparing them for the competition. The team was coached by **Mike Rasmussen ('76)** and **Mike Eldridge ('12)**. An invitation to this prestigious tournament is based on the cumulative trial team performance over the previous three years.

Cumberland went 3-1 in the preliminary rounds, beating California Western, University of Missouri (Kansas City), and Georgetown (who ultimately advanced to the finals). Although our win-loss record was the same as two teams that advanced to the semi-finals, the rules for breaking the tie determine advancement based on total judges' ballots won (there are three judges per round). Cumberland's team lost by just one ballot.



Above, pictured L-R: *Mike Rasmussen, Paige West, Amanda Wineman, Denzel Okinedo, Walt Cobb, Krista Tribble, and Mike Eldridge*

As many of the judges commented, our advocates could walk into any courtroom in the country and try a case. They were that good.

## This Week's Events

The Global Center at Beeson Divinity School is hosting an event on **Thursday, November 9** from **12:10-1:10 pm** featuring Professor Smolin and Rick Morton of Lifeline Children's Services. They will speak on Ethical Issues for International Adoption.

This event will be held in **Divinity Hall N101**. Lunch will be provided for the first 75 people who preregister.

Those planning to attend can preregister and read more about the event here: <https://www.beesondivinity.com/global-center/events/global-voices-11-09-17>

### **Law and Vengeance: A Discussion with Lawyer and Author, Mike Papantonio**

**November 9, 2017**

**11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Moot Courtroom ROBH 101**

**Overflow Room ROBH 120**

Mike Papantonio graduated from Cumberland School of Law 1981. He is a senior partner in the Pensacola, Florida-based Levin Papantonio Law Firm, a leading national mass torts firm. He is also an accomplished author of *Law and Vengeance* and hosts a radio show, *The Ring of Fire*.

# This Week's Events

## 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

## 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



*(pictured from left to right)*  
Jeff Whitcomb, John Dean, Linda Connor, James Robenalt, and Karen Larsen at the "From the Nixon White House to Trump Tower" CLE program on November 1.

## Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Programs News

# COMMUNITY FORUM

## JUSTICE FOR ALABAMA'S YOUTH

The Southern Poverty Law Center and the Alabama Youth Justice Coalition invite you to attend a forum to learn about and discuss the problems that youth face in Alabama's justice system. With the state's Juvenile Justice Task Force issuing recommendations for reform this fall, we have a unique opportunity to shape meaningful change. Together, we can ensure that children are offered opportunities for redemption and rehabilitation in the justice system.

The Alabama Youth Justice Coalition is a group of advocates, attorneys and stakeholders across the state who are committed to creating a fairer and more just juvenile system.

**TUESDAY,  
NOVEMBER 14  
4:00pm-5:30pm**

**Reading Room  
2nd Floor, Cumberland  
Law Library**

800 Lakeshore Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35229

**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.**



**ALABAMA  
YOUTH JUSTICE  
COALITION**



**SPLC  
Southern Poverty  
Law Center**

## Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Programs News



Cumberland School of Law's 2017 Profiles of Service Award recipients were honored on Monday, November 6 with a plaque presented to each of them by Dean Corky Strickland. The award recipients were recognized by the Alabama State Bar for their commitment to serving the community by generously donating their time to provide much needed pro bono services.

*Pictured Left (L-R): Assistant Dean (Public Interest Program) Cassandra W. Adams, Director of Alumni Relations Anne Marovich, Jamilla Pritchett (3L), Attorney Bill Prosche (class of '70), Stephanie Gushlaw (2L), Dean Corky Strickland*



A delegation of women judges and lawyers from the country of Georgia visited Cumberland on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, for a round table discussion focused on how the Rule of Law is promoted in the U.S. Hosted by the Cumberland Public Interest Program, the delegates engaged in a robust discussion about professional responsibility, how one becomes a member of a bar association, the oath that attorneys are bound by, and the various services that attorneys can provide.

*Pictured Left (L-R): Assistant Dean Cassandra Adams, Georgia delegates, translators, and the Global Ties Alabama program consultant.*

## Faculty Notes



**Professor Alyssa DiRusso** co-authored an op-ed on charitable giving that was published last week on the CNN website, available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/10/31/opinions/use-tax-law-to-encourage-charitable-giving-opinion/index.html>. Professor DiRusso discussed the idea for this charitable giving mechanism at length in a 2014 Utah Law Review article, Charity at Work: Proposing a Charitable Flexible Spending Account. You can read the law review article here: [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2718305](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2718305).

# Photo of the Week



**Cumberland Law alumni and students gathered Friday evening, November 3, to celebrate Birmingham's new mayor-elect Randall Woodfin (class of 2007).**

**Want to see your photos featured?**

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