Negotiation Team Places in Top Ten in ABA Competition

Last fall, 140 law schools entered a total of 199 teams in the ABA Law Student Division Negotiation Competition. Twenty teams advanced from the various regions to the national finals competition.

From that group, 16 teams advance to the semi-finals of the championship round. Cumberland, represented by Rachel Cobble (3L) and Kevin Bufford (2L) finished the semi-final round tied for sixth place in the country. Cumberland hosted a regional competition, where Cobble and Bufford finished in second place, and the national finals took place in San Diego at the ABA Mid-year Meeting on February 5 and 6. This is the second time in three years that Cumberland has finished in the top ten in the national finals competition.

Trial Team Advances to Nationals

Cumberland School of Law advances to the national finals of the National Trial Competition for the seventh time in the last eight years. The team of Stewart Alvis and Collin Hatcher won their bracket of the southeastern region with wins over Mississippi College School of Law and Florida Coastal School of Law in the preliminary rounds, Stetson University College of Law in the semi-final round and Jones School of Law at Faulkner University in the final round. Alvis and Hatcher become the ninth team from Cumberland to advance to the national finals since 2009. They were assisted by team member Drew Panella. The team of Amanda Herren, Curtis Seal and Bianca Svennson advanced to the semi-final round of the competition. The teams were coached by Judge Jim Roberts and Sara Williams. The National Trial Competition is co-sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Texas Young Lawyers Association. The national finals will be held March 31 through April 2 in Dallas, Texas.

Thursday’s Seminar to Discuss Veterans Treatment Courts

The Campus Veterans Association and Military Justice Society will be hosting a Veterans Treatment Court Seminar in the Moot Court Room **Thur, February 11 at 11 a.m.**

Speakers include: Judge John Carroll - Cumberland School of Law; Attorney and Combat Veteran Jeremy Glassford - Balch & Bingham LLP; Attorney Texys Morris - Community Law Office.

Veterans Treatment Courts include many facets of law and help veterans in a variety of ways. In fact, most say Alabama is leading the way in VTC. The purpose of this seminar is to inform students of what VTC are, the emergence of VTC in Alabama, the VTC process, as well as the future of VTC. For more information on Veterans Treatment Courts, read Glassford’s, “In War, There Are No Unwounded Soldiers.” For more information, contact Jordan Thompson. Register online.
This Week’s Events

PICS Hosts Cold Weather Drive to Benefit Jimmie Hale Mission

The Public Interest and Community Service Organization (PICS) is holding a cold weather drive to aid those who are in need of cold weather attire. PICS will be collecting coats/jackets, gloves scarves and any hats. Donation bins will be in the Breezeway until February 11. Donations will benefit the Jimmie Hale Mission. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Emily Irvin or Depri Hale.

Dangerous Dreams Tour at Cumberland This Week

Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt, LLC and Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton are delighted to present these remarkable productions at Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law. Performances will take place in the Great Room.

The American Shakespeare Center brings a unique performance style to Cumberland, blending Shakespeare's stagecraft with modern sensibility.

Admission is free; space is limited. R.S.V.P. by February 11 to Charmayne Fillmore.

Donworth Moot Court Competition Registration Open

The Donworth Moot Court Competition is an intraschool competition for 1Ls and it is the ONLY moot court competition that 1Ls are eligible for. There are only 48 individual spots available for this competition, so the event may fill up quickly. Register online. The judges will be National Moot Court Team and Board members, National Team Coaches, professors, and local attorneys and judges. Participants will be scored and advanced as individuals, and therefore do not need to participate with a partner. For more information contact Christian Borek or Kate Furek.

Sign-up Deadline Competition
Tues., February 16 Mon., March 14 (Preliminaries) - Tue., March 15 (Semi-Finals) - Wed. March 16 (Final Round)

Career Development Events

Alabama Defense Lawyers Association and Career Development Office Presents: Pre-Trial Discovery Skills Session

This session will include an overview of pre-trial discovery including depositions, interrogatories, and request for production.

Featuring: Christie Strange, Porterfield Harper Mills Motlow & Ireland, P.A. and Joana Ellis, Holtsford Gilliand Higgins Hitson & Howard, PC

Thur., February 11
Room 120
11 a.m.- Noon

Lunch will be provided for all who register online.

For an up-to-date look at the Law School’s Events, visit the Online Calendar.

Samford’s Events

- Samford University’s Public Events
- Sporting Events
- Performing Arts Calendar

Click on event titles for more information!
Law School Announcements

Writing Competition Open to Students & Faculty

Students and faculty are invited to participate in the 2016 American Inns of Court Warren E. Burger Prize writing competition. The submission deadline for the 2016 Warren E. Burger Prize is July 1, 2016. For more information, please contact Cindy Dennis (571) 319-4703.

Judge Abraham Caruthers Fellows Applications Now Accepted

Applications to be a Judge Abraham Caruthers Fellow for the 2016-17 academic year are now being accepted from rising second and third year law students. The deadline for applications is Friday, February 19, 2016. Caruthers Fellows serve for two semesters. There are no separately scheduled class sessions for the Fellows, but the Fellows have responsibility along with the L.L.R. faculty in teaching research skills and citation. Fellows provide additional assistance to their assigned faculty members as needed. This additional assistance may include working with first year students on an individual basis in the library to assist them in honing their research skills. It may also include checking citation format and proper attribution in submitted assignments. Fellows will receive two hours of graded credit each semester. Caruthers Fellows are expected to be available during Orientation to welcome incoming 1L students and to provide assistance to the L.L.R. faculty.

Successful applicants must be second or third year law students at Cumberland School of Law who have either a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or are in the top 35% of their class. It is also desirable that the applicants have knowledge of and experience with information technology systems as they relate to training in legal writing and legal skills. In addition to possessing excellent legal reasoning and writing skills, the successful applicants must possess outstanding interpersonal skills as this position involves working closely with the law school students, faculty and administration.

 Interested students should submit a hard copy of your resume and a short application letter to Prof. Stoddard. The letter of application should include a statement of the reasons for the applicant’s interest in participating as a Caruthers Fellow.

Send a Cupid Gram for Valentine’s Day

Looking for a unique Valentine’s Day gift for that someone special in your life? Consider buying them a Cupid Gram from Cumberland’s Society of the Arts. Cupid Grams are personal cards delivered to your significant other/friend on campus by Cumberland student, Matthew Hoyle. He will also sing and play the guitar.

How it works: On Thur., February 11, beginning at 10:30 a.m., the Society of the Arts will be in the breezeway where students will be able to fill out a card and share a few details about the recipient, then Hoyle will deliver the card, and sing a song written specifically for the person with the details that you have given.

Cards with no singing are $3.00, and cards with singing are $10.00.
Plan Ahead

The American Journal of Trial Advocacy Presents

PROBING:
Attorneys Investigating & Uncovering Misconduct Outside the Courtroom

Friday, February 26, 2016
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cumberland School of Law
Samford University
Birmingham, Alabama

This event is FREE and open to the public.
Offering three (3) hours of CLE credit.

RSVP required to
jtrialad@samford.edu

Featured Speakers:
▷ Kenneth L. Wainstein - Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, Washington, DC
▷ Christopher W. Madel - Robins Kaplan, LLP, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Presentations & Panel Discussion on the Practical Applications of Probing:
▷ Robert Boland - Ohio University, Department of Sports Administration
▷ Jeffrey P. Doss - Lightfoot Franklin & White, LLC, Birmingham, Alabama
▷ Anthony L. Joseph - Maynard Cooper & Gale, Birmingham, Alabama
▷ Clinton T. Speegle - Lightfoot Franklin & White, LLC, Birmingham, Alabama

In keeping with a tradition of publishing practical legal scholarship, the AJTA is pleased to host this event on the emerging field of investigative findings by lawyers - from high-profile NCAA and NFL cases to exploratory investigations of legal clients.

Bar Exam Meetings Mandatory for 3Ls

Cumberland is holding a series of three identical meetings about the bar exam in upcoming weeks. The meetings will provide information on and an opportunity to ask questions about the bar exam, bar exam preparation, and related topics. The meetings will be held in the Moot Courtroom at the following times and will last approximately 30 minutes:
• Tuesday, March 1 at 8:00 a.m.;
• Monday, March 14 at noon; and
• Thursday, March 17 at 1:30 p.m.

All third-year students are required to attend one of these meetings (though first and second year students are welcome to attend).

BLSA Hosts Chili Cook-Off

The Black Law Student Association will hold a fund-raising chili cook-off from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Thur., February 25, in the Great Room.

Admission is $3.00 to try all of the chili. Individuals are asked to pay $5.00 as an entry fee, $10.00 for groups (of no more than 5 people), and $15.00 for organizations. Prizes will be given out for first, second and third place winners.

Student Volunteers Needed for Project Homeless Connect 9!

On Sat., February 27, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., for the eighth year, Cumberland will join with attorneys and judges from the Birmingham area to participate in Project Homeless Connect 9! at the Boutwell Auditorium (1930 8th Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203). Last year, volunteers from all professions provided services to more than 650 homeless or near-homeless clients with issues ranging from misdemeanor criminal charges, social security and housing crises, to health and dental care.

Law students are needed to facilitate intake for the legal services section of PHC9! Volunteers will make initial contact with the client, run a basic search for outstanding warrants and court cases, and determine which attorney can best deal with the client’s issue. There will be an orientation/training session for students that are volunteering with Project Homeless Connect this year. Training will be Thur. February 25 from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. in the Bishop Conference Room. If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by Suite 215 and sign up or send an email to ccmc@samford.edu with the time you are available. There are two-hour shifts available throughout the day. All Cumberland volunteers are asked to wear their red volunteer shirt and bring their laptop. If you don’t have a volunteer shirt, you can pick one up from Suite 215. Thanks in advance for helping out.
Love Cumberland? Apply to be an Admission Ambassador

Applications for the 2016-2017 Admission Ambassador Program are now being accepted. Apply online.

The Office of Law Admission is seeking rising second and third year students to serve as Admission Ambassadors and represent the law school to prospective law students and their families. The general responsibilities of the Ambassadors are to meet with and educate prospective students about Cumberland School of Law. Ambassadors can expect to participate in a wide range of activities that can be performed to fit their schedule during both the school day and (occasionally) outside of school hours.

Applications are due by Fri., February 26. Top applicants will be interviewed in early March and Ambassadors will be chosen following the interviews. Contact Jennifer Hartzog for more information.

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.

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.

Upcoming Alumni Events:

Thur., March 31, 2016
6 p.m.
Washington DC Alumni Event
For Cumberland and SU alumni and friends:
The Washington Center
1333 16th Street, NW
Washington DC, 20036-2205

This Week- Faculty Event:

Faculty are invited to the Young Alumni Event at YOUR PIE (owned by alumnus Lloyd Peeples ’98)
Wed., February 10
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
RSVP to Anne Marovich
Unfortunately, due to the limited seating at the venue, we are unable to invite law students to this particular alumni event.
Hilaire Armstrong, the current Southern Regional Chair, meets Cumberland Alum, Mu’min Islam, Esq., class of 2008, in Philadelphia during the Mid-Atlantic National Black Law Students Association’s Regional Convention at the MABLSA Chair’s Welcome Reception.

Want to see your photos featured? Send them to Laura Taylor for inclusion in upcoming editions of the Dean’s Newsletter.