



The Jere F. White, Jr. Fellows Program Application

To identify, nurture and encourage outstanding students who have a passion for the law as an avenue of service.

The Jere F. White, Jr. Fellows Program offers an unparalleled educational opportunity to selected applicants with a record of superior academic performance, a history of leadership and a commitment to service that has been demonstrated during and/or after graduation from college. Preference is given to applicants who have served in the military, Peace Corps, Teach for America and other programs benefiting underserved communities.

Applicants selected as Jere F. White, Jr. Fellows receive a unique learning experience at Cumberland School of Law. In addition to a full tuition scholarship, Fellows receive a \$5,000 annual stipend, tuition and lodging for the Cambridge Study Abroad program following their first year of law school and an invitation to attend the annual Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) conference as observers following their second year of law school. Fellows are also invited to be members of the Cumberland Inn of Court. Additionally, Fellows are often invited to meet and dine with visiting speakers and dignitaries.

Possibly the greatest benefit bestowed upon Fellows, however, is the opportunity to connect with and be advised by members of the Jere F. White, Jr. Fellows Program Committee. The Committee, which is responsible for selecting recipients of the honor, consists of family members and friends of Jere F. White, Jr., as well as many highly respected, successful and well-connected attorneys in the Birmingham community. These attorneys serve as mentors to the Fellows, taking a special interest in their education, personal and professional growth. Committee members firmly believe that the Jere F. White, Jr. Fellows Program is not only an investment in the Fellows' futures, but an investment in the legal profession.

2022 Application Instructions and Deadline:

To apply for this fellowship, applicants must first submit an application for admission to the law school's fall 2022 entering first year class through LSAC in time to be admitted to Cumberland before the January 7 Fellowship application deadline. (Law school application must be submitted no later than January 3. However, if you wait until January 3, this does not guarantee that your application will have a decision by January 7.) Once the entering fall 2022 application is submitted through LSAC, applicants may submit the documents below and this signature page by email to JFW-app@samford.edu no later than January 7.

Please include the following as PDFs in your application:

- 1) Essay: How do you view law as an avenue for service? (500 words or less)
 - a. Also identify one area of service in which you wish to participate during your second and third year of law school. The area of service should address an identifiable community need.
- 2) Copy of the personal statement you submitted with your Cumberland School of Law application
- 3) Copy of the resume you submitted with your Cumberland School of Law application
- 4) Service/Volunteer work resume (if not included in your regular resume)
- 5) Signed Signature page

The deadline for applications is **Friday, January 7, 2022**. Finalists will be contacted in early February to arrange mandatory interviews in late February (TBD whether in-person or virtual). We ask that you only apply if you will be able to make your final law school decision by the time the Fellow is selected, approximately early March. (This is out of consideration for the other fellowship applicants.)

Certification:

I hereby certify I understand the items above and the work submitted with this application is my own, except as noted by work cited.

Print Full Name

Applicant's Signature

In accordance with applicable federal and state laws, such as Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendments, the University does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, religion, or any other protected status under federal, state or local law applicable to the University, in its education policies, programs, and activities, in its admissions policies, in employment policies and practices, and all other areas of the University. As a faith-based institution, the University is exempted from certain laws and regulations concerning discrimination.

"Many years ago, Cumberland School of Law took a chance on me, and enabled me to participate in this great profession. It is now my turn to give back, and I am hopeful that you will agree to help me."

About Jere, F. White, Jr.

Jere was a great enthusiast of Samford University's Cumberland School of Law and an inspiration to everyone who met him. A member of the Cumberland School of Law Class of 1980 and a founding member of the law firm of Lightfoot Franklin & White LLC, Jere passed away October 3, 2011, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He persistently maintained his positive attitude and unshakeable faith to the very end.

For over 30 years, Jere handled significant civil cases of all types in state and federal courts in Alabama and throughout the United States. He tried over 100 jury trials to verdict, and was lead counsel in approximately two-thirds of those. Most of his cases were devoted to representing major corporations in products liability, class actions, business torts and multi-plaintiff mass tort matters. In addition, Jere developed a significant practice representing business plaintiffs in commercial disputes. He also had a significant appellate practice—very few lawyers in the South had the breadth of his experience.

Jere was one of the few lawyers in Alabama inducted in the American College of Trial Lawyers, International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Jere was also a Fellow in the Alabama Law Foundation.

Born and raised the son of a trial lawyer and judge in a small town in north Georgia, Jere married his childhood sweetheart, Lyda, and had three children, Davis, Mimi and Bennett. He was an elder of Independent Presbyterian Church, a former trustee of the board of Hampden-Sydney College, member of the advisory board of Cumberland School of Law, and former board member of the Birmingham YMCA. Jere was a graduate of the University of Georgia.

"Jere epitomized the qualities of a great lawyer and person. He was smart and always prepared. Jere had the respect of judges and other lawyers, and was so well liked by everybody. He had a sense of grace which caused others to embrace him. The Fellowship is a tremendous way to honor Jere's legacy," said Robert "Bob" P. MacKenzie III, Cumberland School of Law Class of 1984, with the law firm Starnes Davis Florie LLP.

"Jere was not only a superb trial lawyer, as reflected by his early induction as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1998, but also he was a great visionary. His mind was never trapped in the present, he was always thinking about the future. It was that kind of vision and imagination which led to the formation of this firm [Lightfoot Franklin & White LLP] in 1990, and we are thankful that Jere lived to see his vision for this firm fulfilled with what we have achieved over 23 years. We miss him as a leader in this firm and in our profession," said Samuel H. Franklin with the law firm Lightfoot Franklin & White LLP.