Established in 1847, Cumberland School of Law is one of the oldest law schools in the country. Throughout its history, Cumberland has been known for its proven ability to prepare students to be successful, practicing lawyers, dedicated to serving their clients and their community.

Originally located in Lebanon, Tennessee, the school was founded by Judge Abraham Caruthers, an innovator in legal education. In a time when legal study was conducted by apprenticeship or through lectures, Cumberland pioneered an instructional method based on intensive trial practice. As the needs of the profession and the roles of lawyers changed over the years, Cumberland continued to innovate by developing and integrating new teaching methods, and by expanding the range of its course and extracurricular offerings. Cumberland’s curriculum and approach continue to break new ground with the integration of technology; the incorporation of intramural, inter-school advocacy competitions and other experiential learning; and emphasis on professionalism and service. As Cumberland closes in on two centuries of preparing lawyers, it remains focused on its mission:

To educate a diverse community of students with knowledge and practical skills, equipping them to become highly competent, ethical lawyers committed to professionalism and service.

Cumberland is also a special community that makes it an unusually humane and productive place to study law. The student body is collegial and supportive in a way not usually found in law schools. Faculty are not only exceptional teachers and respected scholars, they care deeply about their students and cultivate personal interaction with them. Indeed, Cumberland's faculty and staff alike are totally dedicated to developing our students and giving them all the tools required to succeed.

The legal profession truly is a calling to serve others. I encourage you to take the next step toward answering the call and schedule a visit to experience for yourself what Cumberland has to offer. A campus visit is the only way to fully appreciate Cumberland’s culture and advantages. I am confident that you will find as I have that this is a special place to become a lawyer. Our admission staff and I stand ready to facilitate your visit and to assist you in any way we can.

Henry C. “Corky” Strickland III
Dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law
Widely acclaimed as one of the nation’s finest programs in trial advocacy

Real-world experience through externships, pro bono opportunities, student organizations and law competitions

#3 Best Quality of Life

Personalized instruction and mentoring by respected and successful faculty members

More than 9,000 accomplished alumni in 50 states, the District of Columbia and around the world

Learn more at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/by-the-numbers.
Teaching first-year students is particularly rewarding. Their enthusiasm is infectious. I come away from classes that I’ve taught many times energized and excited about bringing new depth to the material and engaging students with more ‘hands-on,’ community-based experiences. The age diversity of our students is especially welcome when teaching subjects like real property and tax. Many of the older students have had first careers, run their own business, leased and purchased real estate, and begun families. They bring a depth of perspective that one does not always encounter at other schools.

–Tracey Roberts, Assistant Professor
During your first year at Cumberland School of Law, you will examine fundamental legal concepts applicable to all areas of practice—with an emphasis on legal analysis, legal writing, research and lawyering skills.

First-year Curriculum

First-year Requirements—Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyering and Legal Reasoning I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First-year Requirements—Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civil Procedure II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracts II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Property</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyering and Legal Reasoning II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Taking the pre-1L summer classes was one of the best decisions I have made in my law school career. The information and skills I learned there were instrumental to my success in the first fall semester.” –Brooke Messina, third-year law student
Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (LLR)

Cumberland’s LLR program seeks to build a solid legal reasoning and writing foundation for lawyering tasks and academic success. In the first semester, students focus on:

- reading and analyzing the law
- synthesizing and applying the law to the facts of the case
- writing different types of objective/predictive legal documents
- thinking like a lawyer

This foundation-based curriculum is enhanced by substantial feedback from instructors and teaching assistants.

Once students have mastered the art of legal reasoning, the second semester focuses on applying those foundational skills to typical lawyering tasks. Those tasks include:

- interviewing clients
- performing legal research
- writing multiple-issue legal memoranda
- filing a complaint and answer
- drafting a motion for summary judgment with an accompanying brief
- participating in oral arguments

By investing in our students’ legal foundation and exposing them to the “real world” of lawyering, the LLR curriculum improves our students’ marketability and creates exceptional legal writers.

**During LLR, you will learn to research, write, speak and—most importantly—think like a lawyer.**

First-year Summer Courses

First-year summer courses give you the opportunity to receive an early introduction to law school, with two courses—totaling five credit hours. Participating in these courses will enable you to establish good study habits and class preparation skills, enhance time management, make friendships and build relationships with professors in a smaller, more relaxed environment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Process</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law Process</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students participating in the summer program praise their “readiness quotient” to tackle a full course load in the fall.
Caruthers Fellows are second- and third-year students selected by faculty to serve as mentors to first-year students.
As a second- and third-year student, you will take 15–16 credit hours each fall and spring semester.

We offer courses in the following specialized areas:

Advocacy training is a cornerstone of our curriculum.

Students have the opportunity to take experiential learning courses focusing on the following:
Case preparation | Closing arguments | Cross examination | Direct examination | Expert witnesses | Mediation | Negotiation | Technology use | Trial evidence/jury selection

**Second-year Requirement—Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second-year Requirement—Spring**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitutional Law II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second- or Third-year Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Organizations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wills, Trusts and Estates</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secured Transactions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Responsibilities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Procedure I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After attaining 30 credit hours, you must complete a writing requirement and six hours of experiential learning course work in trial advocacy, negotiation, advanced skills in trial advocacy, mediator practice, appellate advocacy, advanced appellate advocacy, pretrial practice, law office practice and management, health law transactions, or estate and trust administration.

Joint-degree Programs

To help you broaden your perspective and prepare for a career in a specialized field, Cumberland School of Law offers nine joint-degree programs.

- Juris Doctor/Master of Accountancy*
- Juris Doctor/Master of Arts in Theological Studies
- Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration*
- Juris Doctor/Master of Divinity
- Juris Doctor/Master of Public Administration*
- Juris Doctor/Master of Public Health*
- Juris Doctor/Master of Science in Bioethics*
- Juris Doctor/Master of Science in Environmental Management*
- Juris Doctor/Master of Laws (LL.M.)*

*can be completed in three years in conjunction with a Juris Doctor

Concentrations in financial services regulatory compliance, health law and policy, higher education law and compliance, and legal project management
Cumberland School of Law offers opportunities for students to study abroad, and for non-U.S. students to study on Samford University’s campus. Students gain an international perspective by studying and living in a legal system and culture different from their own. These programs also enhance the international perspective of host students by bringing students from other nations to campus.

Study Abroad in Cambridge, England

Every summer, Cumberland School of Law administers a five-credit study abroad program at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge, England. The summer program allows students to compare U.S., British and European Union law. Additional participants of the Cambridge program are students from partnering institutions: Campbell University in North Carolina and Chapman University in California.

International LL.M. in Norwich, England

Under a cooperative arrangement between Cumberland School of Law and Norwich Law School at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England, British law students spend a year at Cumberland School of Law after their second year of legal studies. In return, two Cumberland School of Law J.D. graduates are awarded full-tuition scholarships for studies toward an LL.M. at Norwich Law School, and numerous partial-tuition scholarships are awarded. Cumberland graduates have the opportunity to choose from six different LL.M. programs through this partnership.
“Cumberland’s Cambridge program was an incredibly enriching experience for me, both culturally and academically. The classes I took pushed me to think critically about global matters and have tough discussions with my peers from other walks of life. I walked away from the summer with inspiration, memories and new friends.”

-Arianna del Rosario ’19
Cumberland’s advocacy program has been consistently ranked as one of the top advocacy programs in the country. We train aspiring lawyers to think strategically and tactically, in and out of the courtroom.
Advocacy Curriculum

At Cumberland School of Law, you will have opportunities to experience realistic advocacy training above and beyond most law schools. From Evidence in the first year of law school to the capstone class of Advanced Skills in Trial Advocacy taught in the technologically advanced Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton Courtroom, Cumberland offers an outstanding curriculum in advocacy. Additional courses are offered for every aspect of advocacy: mediation, negotiation, drafting, complex litigation and client counseling. Students receive hands-on practical instruction so that our graduates are practice-ready. Our comprehensive advocacy training approach equips students with the lawyering skills needed to be prepared advocates for every legal career.

Advocacy Competitions

Our advocacy training includes an exceptional advocacy competition program. Unique among law schools, Cumberland School of Law students can participate in trial and appellate advocacy competitions in their first year. Additionally, Cumberland School of Law is one of only a few law schools where students actually run intramural advocacy competitions.

On the national level, Cumberland has a tradition of excellence in advocacy competitions. We have an exceptional record of regional and national advocacy competition victories, with seven National Trial Competition (NTC) and American Association for Justice (AAJ) Student Trial Competition national championships, 39 NTC and AAJ regional titles, 24 competition finalists and seven national invitational victories. Cumberland teams have also won regional negotiation competitions and the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Student Tax Challenge, in addition to the coveted American College of Trial Lawyers’ Emil Gumpert Award for Excellence in Teaching Trial Advocacy.

Cumberland School of Law’s tremendous success at local, regional and national competitions has contributed to our top ranking for trial advocacy.

Memory Leake Robinson Hall

boasts three courtrooms for top-notch advocacy training—the John L. Carroll Moot Courtroom; the Hare, Wynn, Newell and Newton Advanced Advocacy Courtroom; and the Trial Courtroom. All are consistently used to further develop students’ skills in the art and science of advocacy.

Our program is committed to excellence in advocacy. We help students develop the skills necessary to become exceptional, ethical advocates who provide outstanding representation to their clients and make a difference in their communities and people’s lives.”

–Ramona C. Albin, Director of Advocacy
The Call to Lead in Your Practice
Career DEVELOPMENT

First-year Students and Called to the Bar

Most law schools require first-year students to find or make time between classes to attend critical career education programs. At Cumberland, we present our foundational career education programs through the Called to the Bar course in every first-year student’s Lawyering and Legal Reasoning class. Called to the Bar is a pioneering course in legal education created to help law students efficiently design and prepare for their legal career.

During the Called to the Bar course, students will:

• Develop a professional portfolio including a resume and cover letter
• Meet employers from various industries and legal fields across the city
• Engage in interactive programs such as mock interviews
• Understand the breadth of legal careers available to them
• Be paired with an upperclassman mentor to help them navigate challenges of the legal job market

Ongoing Development and Support

Second- and third-year students and alumni have ongoing access to professional development opportunities offered by the Career Development Office. Regular job fairs, on-campus interviews and cutting-edge programs focus on important topics such as salary negotiation. Students will have access to one-on-one coaching and counseling sessions as they develop their professional career path. All students and alumni have access to Cumberland’s growing legal job database.

The Cumberland Network

Cumberland alumni can be found serving as judges, managing partners, government officers, nonprofit managers and a variety of other important positions leading in their fields across the country and globally. Students will have access to Cumberland’s robust network of alumni to aid them in their job searches and professional development.


These qualities describe the Cumberland graduates who have been hired by Carr Allison as new associates. They are ready to hit the ground running due to the quality education they receive along with the outstanding work being done by the Career Development Office (CDO). The CDO staff works very closely with their students to give them every advantage to excel in the ultra-competitive legal profession, which makes me excited to return to Cumberland to interview new students every year.”

—Virginia F. Gambacurta ’03,
Shareholder, Carr Allison, pictured left
Birmingham, Alabama, is home to a thriving legal community with more than 5,000 practicing attorneys, federal and state courts, and government agencies. Externships allow you to work with experienced lawyers and apply what you have learned. These opportunities provide a firsthand view of a particular area of practice. You can enhance your advocacy skills through real-world practice in prosecutors’ offices, legal services programs, judges’ chambers and numerous other positions. Networking for future career options is also a vital aspect of these experiences.

Externships are open to all second- and third-year Cumberland School of Law students who maintain the required minimum GPA. Students work 120 hours during a semester and receive two credit hours for each placement. The first placement must be paired with the Externship I course, totaling three credit hours. Students can receive a total of five credit hours through externship placements and the class.

**Externship I Course**

Students enrolled in an externship for the first time also enroll in this class which meets one hour a week to address topics such as professionalism and ethics, communication with supervisors and clients, bias in the legal profession, work-life integration, and planning one’s legal career. Students earn one graded credit.
Judicial Externship I and II
To be eligible for an externship with a federal judge, students must be on the American Journal of Trial Advocacy, Cumberland Law Review or have other evidence of superior writing skills. Most judges and magistrate judges in the Northern District of Alabama participate in this program.

Judicial Observation
These placements are in the office of a state court judge. Students are required to work a minimum of 56 hours and submit the following written work: a statement of goals at the beginning of the semester, a weekly report of hours with narrative description of activities, submission of a research paper and a reflective essay.

Litigation Externship I and II
Students may work in state district attorneys’ offices, state public defenders’ offices, Legal Aid Society and Legal Services of Metro Birmingham. Students who have successfully completed the Basic Skills in Trial Advocacy course and are certified under the Alabama Rule for Legal Internship may appear in court as trial counsel in these positions.

Public Interest Externship I and II
Organizations such as the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyer Program, YWCA Domestic Violence Clinic and the Department of Human Resources participate in this program.

Summer Externships
In addition to the offices listed above, the Office of Clinical Education also works with students to secure externships outside the Birmingham area, helping them to network and broaden their experience in their field of interest.

Previous summer externships have included placement at the following:
• The United Nations
• The Hague
• Department of Justice, Narcotics and Dangerous Drug Section
• Federal Bureau of Investigation
• University of Ohio, Athletics Compliance
• San Francisco Bay Keepers
• Solo practitioners and small law firms across the country
• Judge Advocate General’s Office
• Offices of attorneys general, states attorneys’ offices, public defenders’ offices and federal judges’ offices across the country
Project Homeless Connect
Each spring, Cumberland School of Law collaborates with community organizations to host Project Homeless Connect, an event that provides services to homeless or near-homeless individuals. Law students have the opportunity to provide legal triage alongside volunteer attorneys, who are there to assist attendees with legal needs such as outstanding warrants, housing issues and securing identification.

Summer Public Interest Fellowships
Cumberland students interested in working in unpaid positions during the summer can apply for a public interest fellowship. Fellowship positions must be with public interest employers such as Legal Services, Legal Aid, judges, nonprofits, courts, and federal and state agencies.

Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education
The Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education, housed at Cumberland School of Law, is dedicated to educating young citizens in the areas of civic knowledge, skills and responsibilities. It is a nationally recognized resource and training center for middle and high school teachers, school resource officers, and community leaders. There are two programs in which Cumberland School of Law students can get involved: We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution and Project Citizen.

Center for Children, Law and Ethics
The Center for Children, Law and Ethics produces influential scholarship, research, service and advocacy on international and domestic children’s issues. The center focuses on applying international standards, particularly from children’s rights and human rights perspectives on adoption, children out of parental care, reproductive issues (especially surrogacy and assisted
reproductive technology), pediatric bioethics, human trafficking, sale of children, child abuse/neglect, and juvenile justice. Students in the center have the opportunity to work with renown scholar Professor David Smolin and local, national and international advisers.

Cumberland Community Mediation Center
Established in 2005, the Cumberland Community Mediation Center offers free and confidential mediation services to the greater Birmingham area. The center mediates issues such as neighbor to neighbor disputes, business disputes, family or roommate disputes, employment issues and landlord/tenant disagreements. Law students completing the mediator practice course are eligible to conduct mediations through the center. The course satisfies one of the steps to qualify for inclusion on the state of Alabama Center for Dispute Resolution mediator roster.

Pro Bono Month
Cumberland School of Law partners with the Alabama State Bar taskforce to participate in the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Celebrate Pro Bono initiative, a month-long focus on pro bono contributions of Alabama lawyers. The law school hosts activities during the month to include relevant speakers, legal clinics and continuing legal education seminars.

Cumberland’s Public Interest Program provides a platform for students to explore and develop the skills needed to master becoming a leader in the legal community through serving others.”

– Cassandra W. Adams, Assistant Dean, Public Interest Program and Director of Community Mediation Center
Student INVOLVEMENT

Journals

**Cumberland Law Review** | Founded in 1970, this publication is designed to provide the legal community with comprehensive legal analysis of national and regional topics authored by legal scholars, judges, attorneys and students. Every fall, the law review hosts a symposium.

**American Journal of Trial Advocacy** | Founded in 1977, this journal is the oldest law review publication in the nation dedicated to the art of trial advocacy. In the journal, prominent attorneys, judges and professors serve the needs and interests of the courtroom advocate with analysis of the demands and issues of litigation. Every spring, the journal hosts a symposium.

*Our two student-edited law publications are cited on Westlaw® and LexisNexis®.*

The Cordell Hull Speakers Forum, named for the Nobel Peace Prize winner and Cumberland alumnus, is a student-run program that attracts nationally renowned speakers in the fields of law, business, media and politics.

The Thurgood Marshall Symposium, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association, is held in honor of Black History Month and features a lecture by a distinguished guest.
At Cumberland School of Law, there are many ways to get to know your classmates in a social setting. Here are just some of the ways we have fun while becoming excellent lawyers:

- Barristers’ Ball
- Rascal Day
- Law Week Kickball Tournament
- Law Week Bowling Challenge
- Freshman Follies
- Halloween Party
- Faculty/Student Social
- Cumberland Classic Golf Tournament
- Bar Review Trivia Night

Bring your dog to law school? If it’s RASCAL DAY, YES!

Rascal Day is a beloved tradition at the law school, honoring a mongrel pup named Rascal who faithfully attended classes from 1933 to 1937. He was awarded the rare degree of doctor of canine jurisprudence by the students.

Every year, Rascal Day brings together students, faculty, families and, of course, dogs for a day of fun festivities that capture the spirit of the Cumberland experience and its ability to develop well-rounded lawyers.
Birmingham, ALABAMA

The Magic City

Nicknamed the Magic City because of its rapid growth after the city was founded in 1871, the metro Birmingham area has a population over one million people. Birmingham boasts incredible opportunities for career, service, community and fun.

More than 5,000 practicing attorneys are located in the metropolitan area, with a large number of major law firms making their headquarters in Birmingham. A majority of the largest law firms in the state of Alabama, including eight out of the top ten private law firms, call Birmingham home. Midsized and smaller firms, as well as solo practices, round out Birmingham’s lively legal landscape, providing a multitude of convenient job opportunities for Cumberland School of Law students and graduates.

Birmingham pairs a vibrant foodie culture with an outstanding music and performing arts scene. Not to mention, it’s home of the James Beard Foundation’s most outstanding restaurant in America, Highlands Bar & Grill, awarded in 2018, and other restaurants hailing chefs with prestigious James Beard recognitions.
“Smack-dab in the middle of Alabama is where the ‘Magic City’ has come to rise. Right in a valley, surrounded by forested mountain ridges, Birmingham is riding an alluring evolution. Young people are flocking home to open up restaurants, bars, hotels, shops, and startups—and it’s as if this Southern city has been waiting just for them.” —Vogue

There are many fun (and often free) things to do and see in Birmingham. Here are some of our favorites:

- Alabama Theatre
- Birmingham Civil Rights Institute
- Birmingham Museum of Art
- Birmingham Zoo
- Lyric Theatre
- Oak Mountain Park and Amphitheatre
- Pepper Place Farmer’s Market
- Railroad Park
- Red Mountain Park
- Regions Field and Birmingham Baron’s Baseball
- Rotary Trail
- Pizitz Food Hall
- Sidewalk Film Festival
- Sloss Fest
- Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark
- TopGolf
- Vulcan Park and Museum and Kiwanis Centennial Park
- Zyp BikeShare
The Call to Invest in Your Surroundings
Samford is a premier nationally ranked Christian university offering undergraduate programs grounded in the liberal arts and a distinct blend of graduate and professional schools. Founded in 1841, Samford is the 87th-oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. The Wall Street Journal ranks Samford 12th nationally for student engagement and Kiplinger’s Personal Finance ranks Samford 34th among private universities in the U.S. for value and affordability. Samford enrolls 5,619 students from 44 states and 30 countries in its 10 academic schools: arts, arts and sciences, business, divinity, education, health professions, law, nursing, pharmacy and public health. Samford fields 17 NCAA Division I teams that compete in the tradition-rich Southern Conference.

samford.edu/cumberlandlaw
FACULTY

Cumberland School of Law’s faculty is known for its care of students. Faculty members possess a wealth of knowledge and experience and have a passion for sharing it. In addition to being accomplished scholars, all faculty members practiced law before becoming educators. Faculty members promote student interaction beyond the classroom with an open-door policy to encourage students to seek advice, counsel and conversation.
Judge John L. Carroll ’74
Professor of Law
LL.M., Harvard Law School
J.D., magna cum laude, Cumberland School of Law
B.A., Tufts University
Teaching and research interests: mediation, evidence, trial practice, ethics and professionalism, e-discovery and evidence

LaJuana S. Davis
Professor and Director of Assessment
J.D., Harvard Law School
B.A., Georgia State University
Teaching and research interests: criminal law and procedure, appellate advocacy, business crimes, interviewing and counseling, postconviction remedies, women’s rights and right to counsel

Michael E. DeBow
Steven Everett Wells Professor of Municipal Law
J.D., Yale Law School
M.A., University of Alabama
B.A., University of Alabama
Teaching and research interests: property, business organizations, administrative law, legislation and local government

Brannon P. Denning
Associate Dean and Starnes Professor of Law
LL.M., Yale Law School
J.D., magna cum laude, University of Tennessee College of Law
B.A., magna cum laude, Sewanee: The University of the South
Teaching and research interests: Constitutional law and the United States Supreme Court

Alyssa A. DiRusso
Whelan W. and Rosalie T. Palmer Professor of Law
J.D., University of Texas School of Law, Order of the Coif
B.S., Carnegie Mellon University, Phi Beta Kappa
Teaching and research interests: wills, trusts and estates, estate and gift tax, estate and trust administration, taxation of nonprofit organizations and federal income tax

Jill Elysa Evans
Professor
J.D., Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
M.A., Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School of Management
B.A., University of California—Irvine
Teaching and research interests: torts and environmental law

Lynn H. Hogewood ’03
Director of Academic Support and Interim Assistant Director of LLR
J.D., Cumberland School of Law
B.S., Samford University
Teaching and research interests: legal research and writing, nonprofit organizations, and wills, estates and trusts

Paul Kuruk
Professor
LL.B., summa cum laude, University of Ghana
Barrister of law, Ghana Law School
M.S., Temple University School of Law
S.J.D., Stanford University Law School, Fulbright Scholar
Teaching and research interests: commercial transactions, international business transactions, trade law and human rights

Gregory K. Laughlin
Library Director and Associate Professor of Law
J.D., cum laude, University of Missouri School of Law, Order of the Coif
M.S., University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign
B.A., magna cum laude, Missouri State University
Teaching and research interests: information access and control

Edward C. Martin
Professor and Director of Law School Technology
J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law
Postgraduate studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Postgraduate studies, Middle Tennessee State University
B.S., University of Tennessee
Teaching and research interests: torts, products liability, professional responsibility, damages, and law and technology
The Call to Teach Future Leaders

Leonard J. Nelson III
Professor Emeritus and Interim Director of LLR Program
LL.M., Yale Law School
J.D., cum laude, Gonzaga University School of Law
B.A., magna cum laude, University of Washington, Phi Beta Kappa
Teaching and research interests: legal research and writing, medical liability, health care law

Tracey M. Roberts
Assistant Professor of Law
LL.M., New York University School of Law
J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law
A.B., Harvard University
Teaching and research interests: taxation, tax policy, property, real estate development and environmental law

William G. Ross
Albert P. Brewer Professor of Law and Ethics
J.D., Harvard Law School
A.B., with distinction, Stanford University
Teaching and research interests: professional responsibilities, civil procedure, constitutional law and American legal history

David M. Smolin
Harwell G. Davis Professor of Constitutional Law and Director, Center for Children, Law and Ethics
J.D., University of Cincinnati College of Law, Order of the Coif
B.A., University of South Florida New College
Teaching and research interests: bioethics and biotechnology, intellectual property, international human rights, children’s issues, family and juvenile law, constitutional law, estates and trusts, and criminal law

R. Thomas Stone Jr.
Professor
Ph.D., University of Tennessee
LL.M., University of Illinois at Urbana—Champaign
J.D., Emory University
B.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Teaching and research interests: antitrust, business organizations, contracts, economic analysis of law and government regulation of business

Laura D. Taaffe
LLR Instructor
J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School
B.S., Cornell University
Teaching and research interests: legal research and writing, labor and employment law

Henry C. Strickland III
Dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law
J.D., Vanderbilt University Law School
B.A., summa cum laude, Presbyterian College
Teaching and research interests: alternative dispute resolution, civil procedure, conflict of laws, constitutional law, remedies, arbitration and legal education

Howard P. Walthall
Leslie S. Wright Professor of Law
LL.B., Harvard Law School
A.B., magna cum laude, Harvard College, Harvard University
Teaching and research interests: state constitutional law, state and local taxation, commercial law, bankruptcy, and business organizations

Deborah Young
Judge J. Russell McElroy Professor of Law
J.D., cum laude, University of Michigan Law School
Corning Traveling Fellow
B.A., summa cum laude, University of Kentucky, Phi Beta Kappa
Teaching and research interests: criminal procedure, evidence and trial advocacy
The Call to Excel Globally

Cumberland School of Law has been preparing exceptional lawyers for more than 170 years. Our 9,000+ active alumni are associates and partners in large national and regional law firms, and small practices. They also work for corporations, nonprofit agencies, government offices and in nontraditional jobs that require legal expertise.

Cumberland School of Law staff members plan programs and offer ongoing opportunities for students to network and meet alumni. Alumni often serve as mentors, offering professional guidance to students throughout law school and to graduates entering their legal careers.

ALUMNI

“I truly enjoyed law school and completely devoted myself to it. I was 43 when I started at Cumberland, and I loved being challenged intellectually in a way that I didn’t know I was missing. Many of my professors became friends and made themselves available for numerous hours of discussion and explanation, for which I will be eternally grateful. I went into law school wanting to practice family law and that’s exactly what I have done. I started with a firm, and, thanks to Cumberland’s preparation, I went out on my own after eight years and have never looked back.”

Frances Ross Nolan ’05, Nolan Byers PC, Partners in Family Law

“While it took me quite a few years to realize the value of the legal foundation and training I received while attending Cumberland, I eventually came to know with great certainty that Cumberland provided me with the tools and legal skills to be able to develop and enjoy one of the most interesting and fulfilling careers any lawyer could ever be blessed with having during his or her years practicing law.”

William “Lee” Thuston ’74, Chairman, Burr & Forman LLP
“The foundation of every court appearance in my career was laid at Cumberland. Trial skills learned and honed in the clinical and experiential programs were critical, not only to future litigation success, but in landing important prosecutorial internships and post-graduation employment. I coupled Cumberland’s internationally acclaimed faculty and fantastic campus resources with clinical study concentrating in litigation, and the results were transformational. Every coach I’ve had in sports or leader in the military, proclaimed performance on the field or in battle mirror practice and training. The same is true in the courtroom. Engage robustly at Cumberland in the arts of trial work!”

Bobby L. Christine ’95, United States Attorney, Southern District of Georgia, Colonel, State Judge Advocate–GA National Guard

“Cumberland was the cornerstone of my professional development. I found the instruction to be warm, challenging, and engaging. The continuation of those factors made, and continue to make Cumberland a unique learning environment. From that process, I gained the confidence to take the next steps professionally. It’s an honor to be a part of the Cumberland family.”

Anthony A. Joseph ’80, Shareholder, Maynard Cooper & Gale PC, Former Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation

*This chart indicates the employment outcomes for 2018 graduates who are not pursuing a graduate degree, 89.4% of whom are employed 10 months after graduation.
Will You ANSWER THE CALL?

Start Your Legal Education

Cumberland School of Law has a rolling admission process. Completed admission files are reviewed in the order in which they are received. You will typically receive a decision within one month of completing your application. You are encouraged to submit your application early in the process.

Submit your application through the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/apply.
Financial Aid, Scholarships and Fellowships

Cumberland School of Law recognizes the rising costs of legal education and makes every effort to manage costs and to ensure students receive high-quality legal education. Federal financial aid and scholarships provided by the law school are separate from one another. Federal financial aid, in the form of student loans, is administered through the federal government. Scholarships provided by the law school are based on merit (undergraduate GPA and LSAT score).

Federal Financial Aid
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine eligibility for need-based federal financial aid that is administered by Samford University’s Student Financial Services.

• Submit the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov.
• The federal school code for Samford University is 001036.
• The priority FAFSA application deadline is March 1.
• Federal Stafford Loans allow eligible students to borrow up to a maximum amount each academic year.
• Federal Graduate Plus Loans supplement costs associated with your education up to the estimated low student budget amount.

For additional information, contact Samford University’s Student Financial Services at 205-726-2905, 1-800-888-7245 or samford.edu/go/aid.

Scholarships and Fellowships
The scholarship committee makes scholarship selections based on the information you provide in your application. Admitted students who are selected to receive scholarship assistance are notified by email and phone. No scholarships are available for flextime students during their first two semesters of study. Scholarships are offered in the form of the full-tuition Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship or partial-tuition merit scholarships.

Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship
The Jere F. White Fellowship offers a unique learning experience to an entering student who demonstrates superior academic performance, a strong record of service and exceptional potential for professional and personal leadership. The Jere F. White Jr. Fellow receives a full-tuition scholarship in addition to many other benefits. Preference is given to applicants who served in the military, Peace Corps, Teach for America or other programs benefiting underserved communities. A separate application is due in early January.

Admission Requirements

• Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
• Law School Admissions Test (LSAT) score (taken within the last five years)
• Credential Assembly Service (CAS) report through LSAC. Make arrangements for LSAC to receive and compile letters of recommendation, transcripts from all colleges and universities attended and LSAT score in a CAS report.
• Cumberland School of Law’s official application, completed by the required deadline, May 1. A completed application includes a personal statement, a resume, any required addenda and a CAS report.

More scholarship opportunities can be found at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/scholarships.
Considering a legal education
AT CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW?

At Cumberland, we know law school can be expensive, so we evaluate every admitted student for scholarship. In fact, we award scholarships to over 90 percent of the incoming class! Here are several ways Cumberland helps you with the cost of law school:

Cumberland Application Fee: $0

2019-20 Tuition
$40,788 for the year (two semesters)

Scholarships
• 98 percent of first-year students received merit-based scholarships
• Average merit-based award was $16,500
• One full-tuition scholarship awarded—Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship

Bar Preparation Course: $0
When you’re ready to prepare for the bar exam, we cover the full cost of your choice of bar review course. That’s up to a $3,800 value!
Will You Answer the Call?

Is Cumberland School of Law the right fit for you?

Contact us to schedule a visit to sit in on a class, meet with an admission counselor and speak with current students.

800-888-7213 • lawadm@samford.edu