

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY / FALL 2016 / ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CUMBERLAND LAWYER





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FROM THE DEAN



“The Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute. . . is at once one of the most educational, inspiring and enjoyable continuing education programs I have witnessed.”

Next month, Cumberland School of Law and the American College of Trial Lawyers will present the third bi-annual Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute. Having attended past institutes, I can honestly say that no one engaged in trial work should miss it. It is at once one of the most educational, inspiring and enjoyable continuing education programs I have witnessed. The institute features some of the best trial lawyers in the country, demonstrating and providing insights about all phases of trial practice. In addition, the keynote luncheon speaker this year is Fred Grey, the legendary civil rights lawyer who represented, among others, Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and who is also a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

Proceeds from the institute fund the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows program. The fellows program, which was established by Jere and Lyda White, is one of the premier law school scholarships in the country. It provides not only a full, three-year tuition scholarship to

Cumberland but also an annual stipend, tuition and lodging at Cumberland’s summer study abroad program in Cambridge, England, and opportunities to participate in a variety of academic programs. It is not just an academic scholarship, though. It perpetuates Jere’s legacy by identifying and supporting the education of future lawyers who not only have outstanding academic credentials but also display promise of impactful future service to their communities as demonstrated by an already extraordinary record of service.

Cumberland is deeply grateful to the generous firms that support the institute, the gifted lawyers who participate on the institute’s faculty and the institute’s tireless planning chairmen. I hope to see you at this year’s institute on Nov. 11. We expect the institute to sell out again, so I encourage you to register today if you have not already done so.

Dean Henry “Corky” Strickland III

THANK YOU

Each year, participating Alabama law firms with four or more Cumberland School of Law alumni attempt to reach 100% alumni participation in the law school’s Annual Fund Firm Competition. Overall alumni participation rate (the number of alumni who financially contribute to the law school) is reported to the American Bar Association annually. This year, Cumberland School of Law proudly recognizes, with gratitude, the following firms and firm leaders who achieved 100% alumni participation for the 2015–16 fiscal year:

McCallum Methvin & Terrell (Bob Methvin ’94)

Dominick Feld Hyde (Douglas McWhorter ’73)

Carr Allison (all offices—Thomas Logan ’88)

Norman Wood Kendrick & Turner (Bains Fleming ’07)

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles (Tom Methvin ’88)

Jones Walker (all offices—Steve Casey ’79)

Sirote & Permutt (all offices—Kelli Robinson ’06)

Starnes Davis Florie (R. Todd Huntley ’00)

Cory Watson (Stephen Hunt ’06)

Burr & Forman (Nashville, Tennessee, and Alabama offices—Victor Hayslip ’85)

Christian & Small (R. Jordan Wood ’09)

Heninger Garrison Davis (Taylor Bartlett ’10)

Thank you to all of our alumni for your continued support. The consistency and breadth of your support are critical to our institution. All gifts make a tremendous impact at the law school, and we thank you.

Alvis Receives Brewer Professionalism Award

Henry C. “Corky” Strickland III, dean and Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law, presented the annual Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award to third-year student Stewart Alvis of Birmingham, during the Cumberland School of Law spring commencement on Friday, May 13, 2016, at Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center.

The Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award was endowed by Governor Albert Brewer, distinguished professor of law and government and professor emeritus, in honor of his father. Each year, the award is granted to a third-year law student at Cumberland who best exemplifies the high standards of ethics and professionalism expected of members of the legal profession. During his time at Cumberland, Alvis was an active member of the National Trial Team, the Student Bar Association and *Cumberland Law Review*. He served in various leadership positions including chief judge of the Cumberland Trial Advocacy Board, acquisitions editor and junior editor of *Cumberland Law Review*, and Student Bar Association class representative and vice president.

Following graduation, Alvis accepted a position at Maynard Cooper & Gayle, P.C. in their Birmingham office, where he will be a part of their general litigation and white collar defense and investigations practice groups. He is the eighth member of his family to graduate from Cumberland.





“THIS GRADUATING CLASS INCLUDES BRILLIANT LITIGATORS, GIFTED ATHLETES, INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY AND A GROUP THAT HAS SURVIVED ‘SNOWMAGEDDON’ AND CELEBRATED ‘RASCAL.’ MOST IMPORTANTLY, THOUGH, YOU HAVE FORMED A BOND THAT WILL LAST FOR YEARS TO COME.”

MCCARTHY INSPIRES LAW GRADUATES WITH STORYTELLING

Graduates of Samford University’s Cumberland School of Law were encouraged to look beyond themselves, to focus on serving others and to be persistent in pursuing their goals during the law school’s commencement ceremony on Friday, May 13 in Samford’s Wright Center.

Terry McCarthy, adjunct professor and partner at Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC, was chosen by the graduating class to deliver their commencement address.

“I just love a good story,” McCarthy began, “so I’m going to share three stories with you that have inspired me and changed my life.”

The first story was about Afleet Alex, a race horse that won the Preakness Stakes, Belmont Stakes and very nearly won the Kentucky Derby. More importantly, though, Afleet Alex’s owners helped to raise millions of dollars for pediatric cancer research by using his spotlight to vault one little girl’s cause to the national stage.

“Alex Scott, who unfortunately died of cancer in August 2004, was no ordinary little girl,” McCarthy explained. “Back when she was a four year old in the hospital, she told her mother she wanted to start a lemonade stand to help raise money for other kids with cancer. In Alex’s dark times, she was not thinking of herself. She was thinking of how she could help others.”

By the time of Alex’s death in 2004, she had raised over \$1

million for pediatric cancer research. After her death, Alex’s parents received a phone call from the owner of a racehorse sharing the same name. According to McCarthy, “The owner simply said: ‘We own a horse that is pretty good, and we have been donating anonymously to Alex’s cause. Would it be okay if we go public with this? And Alex’s dad said, ‘sure.’”

Soon thereafter, Alex’s lemonade stands were assembled at racetracks across the country, and her cause was picked up by national media outlets. Alex’s efforts eventually became a foundation that has raised over \$120 million for childhood cancer research, “all because of the vision of one four-year-old girl, the courage of her parents and the determination of a horse who shared her name,” exclaimed McCarthy.

“As lawyers, you are going to face many difficult challenges,” McCarthy said. “In life, you will face many difficult challenges. You are going to get knocked down a lot. How are you going to respond? You can give up, or you can respond like Alex and her parents. You can get up and fight. And maybe, just maybe, you will also accomplish great things.”

The second story was about McCarthy’s friend and colleague, Jere White, who died of cancer in October 2011 at age 56. White was a Cumberland graduate and founding partner of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC. “He was also the greatest trial lawyer I have ever seen,” added McCarthy, “and one of the finest people I have ever met.”

Prior to his death, White established the Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship program at Cumberland School of Law, which is awarded to one entering student per year. The first recipient of the prestigious fellowship, Caroline Collins Muse, is a 2016 graduate of the law school and was in the audience. Also in the audience was 2016 graduate J.D. Marsh, whose father, David Marsh, was on the opposite side of White in many big cases. “Jere and David fought hard against each other in the courtroom,” explained McCarthy, “but they didn’t hate each other. In fact, they were great friends. David has given as much as anyone to help make the Jere White Fellowship great.”

McCarthy said he wanted the graduates to take three things from Jere White’s story: “First, the law is an adversarial professional, but you can still like and even love your opponent and reach the top at the same time. Second, like little Alex, in his last days, Jere White thought of ways to help others, including students at Cumberland. I challenge you to start today and think of ways you can give back to Cumberland and to others. Third, legend has it that Jere lost his first six jury trials. Like Alex, he didn’t give up. He picked himself up, and I can assure you he didn’t lose many after that.”

The third story was the story of the Class of 2016. McCarthy began by stating, “Lawyers need to laugh more.” He then recounted several humorous tidbits of personal information his students had written down on notecards during their first day of class,

including “I once got run over by a golf cart,” and “My great (eight times removed) uncle is George Washington.” He then teased the class valedictorian, J.D. Marsh, for misspelling a word on his notecard.

“All teasing aside,” McCarthy continued, “this graduating class includes brilliant litigators, gifted athletes, individuals committed to serving the community and a group that has survived ‘Snowmageddon’ and celebrated ‘Rascal.’ Most importantly, though, you have formed a bond that will last for years to come.”

“Dr. Suess once said: ‘sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory,’ but I valued my time with you every single day,” reminisced McCarthy. “I am proud to have been a small part of your story. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for changing my life for the better. This chapter in your story is about to be over, but I can’t wait to see what this class does as the rest of the story unfolds.”

Also at the law school commencement, Cumberland presented its annual Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award to Stewart Alvis of Birmingham (see story on page 4).

The law school awarded 133 Juris Doctor degrees during the ceremony, including 12 joint degrees. In addition, four Master of Comparative Law degrees were awarded to foreign-trained lawyers who spent two summers at Cumberland learning about the United States legal system and culture.

CLASS OF 2016 LEGACY

- 1: **Stewart Alvis** and his mother, **LaBella Alvis '84**
(not pictured is father K. Rick Alvis '84)
- 2: **Elise McFall** and her father, **Mark McFall '88**
(not pictured is fiancée Matthew Hoyle '16)
- 3: **Rachel Cobble** and her father, **Crockett Cobble '84**
- 4: **Spencer Walker** and his father, **Claude Walker '85**
- 5: **Carlton Johnson III** and his father, **Carlton Johnson Jr. '86**
- 6: **Chase Eley** and his father, **Michael Eley '81**
(not pictured is brother Landon Eley '13)
- 7: **Mallory Bennett** and her father, **Jim Bennett '87**
- 8: **Caroline M. Collins** and her father, **Kevin Collins '85**
- 9: **Tyler Conger** and his father, **James "Hilton" Conger '72**
- 10: **Catherine Guy** and her father, **N. Gunter Guy '82**
- 11: **Austin Nichols** and her mother, **Jennifer Nichols '88**



Hogewood Named Director of New Academic Support Program



This fall, Lynn Hogewood assumes a new role as the first director of a new Academic Support Program at the law school. The purpose of the Academic Support Program is to assist students in becoming successful in their legal studies and to help students make a successful transition from the bar exam into their careers. The Academic Support Program includes programs, mentoring and tutoring for all students, but especially focuses on entering first-year students and students struggling with academic performance.

Under former Dean John L. Carroll, Hogewood had the opportunity to examine and explore similar academic support programs in other law schools around the country. Now, under current Dean Henry C. Strickland III, Hogewood has the opportunity to incorporate such a program at Cumberland.

Hogewood will provide individual guidance and support for students with regard to study habits, reasoning skills, tools for improvement, time management, outlining, exam preparation, legal writing,

bar exam preparation and general life skills. Hogewood also will coordinate with offerings in other departments in the law school and with individual faculty members to evaluate and assess the evolving needs of the students. Additionally, she will incorporate strategies to help students be successful.

“Professor Hogewood’s connection to Samford as an undergraduate and to Cumberland through her legal education, coupled with her experience teaching these past nine years, have provided her with a deep perspective of and direct connection to Cumberland, its students, faculty and staff. She has watched and engaged with the students and understands their strengths, weaknesses and needs. All of these attributes make her a perfect fit for her new role as director of Academic Support,” said Strickland.

Hogewood earned her undergraduate degree from Samford University and her J.D. from Cumberland School of Law. She has been a licensed attorney in the state of Alabama since September 2003. Professor Belle Stoddard has been a long-time teacher and mentor to Hogewood.

In fall 2007, Stoddard gave Hogewood the opportunity to become an instructor at Cumberland, teaching Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (LLR). Hogewood continues to teach LLR and now also teaches Nonprofits Governance and Policy. She also taught the Legal Process and Public Law Process courses to entering first-year students this past summer.

Hogewood has a love for learning herself and is an advocate for education. She recognizes that support for academic success comes in a wide variety of ways and is prepared to help Cumberland students be successful, achieve their best and make a positive difference in the world with their degrees from Cumberland. In addition to her passion for the success of Cumberland students, Hogewood treasures her role as mom to two daughters, three Labrador retrievers and two kittens. She is a certified yoga teacher and enjoys practicing and teaching yoga and meditation, as well as volunteering for a number of organizations (including her daughters’ schools) and spending time with friends.

Law School to Offer Paralegal Studies Minor for Undergraduate Students

This spring, Cumberland School of Law will offer a minor in paralegal studies to Samford University’s undergraduate students. The new program option, which was recently approved by the American Bar Association (ABA), is in addition to the ABA-approved Paralegal Studies Certificate offered to students who have already received a degree. The 22-credit-hour curriculum will focus on the development of legal knowledge and practical skills in a variety of legal practice areas.

“This new minor provides Samford undergraduates great value and flexibility. They can complete their undergraduate degree in the field of their choice and at the same time prepare for a career as a paralegal,” said Cumberland School of Law Dean

Henry C. Strickland III. “It will allow students to explore the law if they are interested in law school. It will also make them highly marketable as they enter today’s competitive job market.” Samford University was initially approved by the ABA to provide paralegal education in 1978, making the Paralegal Studies Certificate program the oldest such program in the state of Alabama. The minor in paralegal studies is a natural extension of the certificate program, said Dawn Smith Carre, director of paralegal studies.

“With the projected growth of the paralegal profession, the paralegal minor will work in conjunction with the certificate program to meet the expanding needs of the legal market for quality paralegal support,” said Smith Carre.

Career Development Office Introduces New Program for First-Year Law Students

This fall, Cumberland’s Career Development Office introduced a new program for first-year law students called Professional Foundations. The program is a series of interactive classroom and career counseling sessions designed to prepare first-year law students for the challenges of the legal job market. Students attended two classroom sessions during the first two weeks of law school to learn about resume writing, interviewing, job searching, marketing themselves, and ways to assess their strengths and weaknesses. Students develop a quality professional portfolio of documents, such as a resume and cover letter, as well as “employer proof” social media accounts. In October, students participated in mock interviews where they met more attorneys and had an opportunity to fine tune their interviewing skills. During winter break, students will seek out informational interviews with alumni to better help them network and interact with local attorneys.

Each Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (LLR) section will have two Career Development Advisory Board members assigned to them. Students will work in small pods with peer leaders to help them grow professionally. The Career Development Office staff coach students in both one-on-one and small group meetings.

Professional Foundations utilizes two primary tools: a professional development binder and a “My Law Plan” workbook. The binder contains forms that allow students to better track their

meetings with the Career Development Office, attorneys and faculty members. Other forms help students track networking events, involvement in student organizations and other crucial mile markers needed to grow professionally. The binders provide a snapshot of where a student is in his or her professional career; that career begins on the first day of law school.

“My Law Plan” enables students to view their professional progress as they work toward career goals. The workbook helps the transition from student to professional by creating a business plan and strategy for accomplishing goals. Although students’ goals can (and probably will) change, they are encouraged, and equipped, to adapt their planning accordingly.

“We are confident this program can give Cumberland students an all-important edge when competing for scarce legal jobs,” says Allen Howell, associate director of career development and director of reporting and outreach. “We also hope the changes will help students to better focus on their first-year course work, since the new program will allow us to reach students much earlier in the semester so they have quality resumes, clean social media profiles and are interview ready by the time they start competing for jobs.”

Introducing Paula Kierce, Director of Development



Paula Kierce joins Cumberland School of Law as director of development with over twenty years of experience in private, political and higher education fundraising, public relations, marketing, and private consulting. Paula received her bachelor's degree in business, magna cum laude, from Faulkner University in 1991 and her M.B.A. from Auburn University in 2002. A native of Alexander City, Alabama, Paula and her husband Barry live in Montgomery, Alabama, and are members of First Baptist Church. Her son, Corey, is a 2014 graduate of Auburn University and is currently attending law school. Paula and her husband are members of the Petrie and Foy Societies at Auburn University.

Summer Alumni Events Recap

Summer alumni receptions were held at surrounding annual state bar meetings in Florida and North Carolina. Faculty, staff and students enjoyed catching up with alumni. We are thankful for the generosity of the following sponsors:

- **Mary Ann Etzler '95** (Etzler Law, Orlando, Florida)
- **Nicole Sodoma '00** (Sodoma Law, Charlotte, North Carolina)
- **Jim Morgan '69** (Morgan, Herring, Morgan, Green & Rosenblutt, LLP, High Point, North Carolina)
- **Casey Cogburn '08**
- **Frazer Law** (Nashville, Tennessee)
- **cicayda**
- **Fawal & Spina** (Birmingham)
- **McCallum Methvin & Terrell** (Birmingham)
- **Freese & Goss** (Birmingham)
- **Burr Forman**
- **Wettermark Keith** (Birmingham)

Cassandra Adams Receives Award

Cassandra Adams, director of Cumberland's Public Interest Program and Community Mediation Center, was honored with the Volunteer Lawyer's Program Mediation Award during the Alabama State Bar annual meeting. Due to her efforts, more than 180 hours of pro bono mediation assistance were provided last year.



UEA Program Celebrates 10TH ANNIVERSARY

This year Cumberland School of Law celebrated the 10th anniversary of its exchange program with the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich, England. Professor Bo Cole initiated the exchange program with UEA through a Memorandum of Agreement in March 2005, and the first students attended Cumberland in fall 2006.

Over the last 10 years, Cumberland has been host to 36 exchange students from UEA. These students from England, Wales, Ireland and even Thailand, have enriched the classroom experience of many American students who might never have the opportunity to travel to other countries. Many of our American students have developed close relationships that have continued throughout the years.

As a part of the exchange agreement, UEA provides a limited number of scholarships for Cumberland students who wish to participate in their LL.M. program after graduation. Thus far, UEA has hosted 18 Cumberland students.

During a dinner in London's Lutyens Restaurant, some of the students who studied in each of these programs had the opportunity to reminisce with other students and the administrators who have facilitated the experience.

1 *Stathis Banakis, former head of law school and current acting external examiner for the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and University of Aberdeen, receiving a Cumberland memento from Pam Nelson.*

2 *Katy Quigley, school manager, and Claudina Richards, director of the LL.B. in Law with French Law and Language, LL.B. in Law with European Legal Systems, Certificate of Higher Education in Common Law and Erasmus director*

3 *Stathis Banakis, Dean Henry Strickland and Professor Mike Floyd posing for a photo.*



CHANGE
CAN BE
A BASIS FOR
OPPORTUNITY.



CHANGE

Some say “change is inevitable” or “change is good.” Does progress require change? Can progress be progress without change?

Seasons change; we change homes, addresses, jobs and perspective. Our preferences change; routines change; careers change. Is change inevitable for everyone? Some may assert it is not inevitable, but simply probable. The popular definition of change is “to make or become different.” This definition alone is neither positive nor negative. Notwithstanding, I choose to view “change” as a positive verb or noun and assert that change is good—a very good thing!

Change can be a basis for opportunity. In fact, almost each successful and happy alumnus I meet reflects positively regarding change he or she experienced throughout his or her career. I’d like recent graduates and other young alumni who are seeking ideal employment or settling in with new employers to understand that changes aren’t to be feared, but rather embraced, knowing that opportunity exists with change.

Each year brings new and continuous change at your law school. Over the last few years, as applications for admission to law schools decreased nationwide, we changed our recruiting tactics to successfully meet goals. As the legal job market changes, we adapt our career development programs and opportunities to meet demands and educate our students about niche practices, nontraditional practices and geographical markets seeking qualified lawyers. As faculty retire, we add new. This summer, Professor LaVone Warren retired, and this fall we welcome visiting professor Tracey Roberts, who is teaching tax and

property law. Lynn Hogewood is directing our new academic support program, and we welcome Brian Noble ’10 and Robin Andrews ’91 as Lawyering and Legal Reasoning instructors. Their collective and recent practical experience will truly benefit our 1Ls.

We had a change in the Office of Alumni Relations this year. After almost 30 years of working in higher education, the last seven at Cumberland School of Law, Connie Cox, our program assistant, retired. Connie thoroughly enjoyed getting to know both students and alumni. In July, we welcomed Laura Patterson to the office as our new program assistant. No stranger to the law school, Laura previously worked in the Office of Law Student Records. She looks forward to getting to know you all.

Has your career changed? Have you moved? Have you changed jobs, cities or professional focus? Let me know—I’d love to hear about your recent changes. If appropriate, we will include the information in Class Notes.

Finally, make plans to reconnect with your law school classmates and join us during Alumni Reunion Weekend in April 2017. All alumni are invited to the annual reunion reception on April 7, 2017. An open house will be held the next day, Saturday, April 8, and individual class reunion parties, for class years ending in a seven or two, will be held that evening. Make hotel reservations at a discounted rate at the newly renovated Redmont Hotel, now a Curio by Hilton property, just a few blocks from The Florentine (a change). I look forward to seeing you!

*Be the change you wish to see,
Anne*

Alumni Honored During Reunion Weekend

Cumberland School of Law recognized four alumni for special distinction during the law school’s annual reunion activities April 8–9. Honorees included Richard H. Knight and Linda W. Knight ’76, Distinguished Alumni of the Year; Woodrow N. Hartzog ’03, Young Alumnus of the Year; and Sara L. Williams ’06, Volunteer of the Year. They were honored at a reception on Friday, April 8. Dean Henry C. Strickland III presented the awards.

Alumni Reunion Weekend 2016

The historic Florentine Building in downtown Birmingham, Alabama, was the site of the 2016 alumni reunion reception. Guests loved the change in venue, and many walked from the hotels in which they were staying. While Cumberland graduates from all classes were invited and attended, classes who graduated in years ending in one and six were celebrated. In addition to recognizing four alumni award winners, those who participated on the National Trial Team while they were in law school were also recognized.

The 2017 reunion reception will be held at the Florentine once again on April 7. Make plans to attend today!



1 Dean Henry C. “Corky” Strickland III and Sara Williams ’06

2 Richard and Linda Knight (both ’76), Anne Marovich, director of alumni relations and Sharon Stuart ’90

3 Marion Walker, Judge Tom King, Marcella Auerbach and Judge James E. Hill Jr. (all members of the class of ’76).

SWITCH HITTERS:

Law Students Who Excel in Athletics as Well as Academics

BIANCA SVENSSON

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Sport played and undergraduate institution:
Tennis, University of Alabama

Tell us about your college athletic career.

I chose Alabama because of the incredible atmosphere that surrounds Alabama athletics. The facilities are first class, the resources are astounding and the people are incredible. The coaching staff I played for cared a lot about winning, but did not have a win-at-all-cost attitude. Coach Mainz cared about developing the full person and that was evident from the first time I met her. Off the courts we were a family (and still are) but on the courts we were fiercely competitive. We may not have been the most talented team in the country, but we prided ourselves on outworking everyone. Throughout my career at Alabama, I played singles and doubles for three years, helping Alabama to a #16 national ranking. Unfortunately my tennis career was cut short when I underwent career-ending wrist surgery in the fall of my senior year. I became a student assistant coach during that time and continued to help Alabama tennis climb the ranks before graduating and moving on to a four-year career as a collegiate tennis coach before attending Cumberland.

Do you feel that being an athlete during your undergraduate years helped prepare you for law school in any way?

Being a collegiate athlete shaped many traits and qualities that have helped me become successful in law school. Time management is something I had to master as an undergraduate. The ability to compete for your school, attend classes, get your school work done and enjoy other aspects of collegiate life required me to be very efficient in every part of my life. That skill has helped me throughout law school but especially this past year while competing for Cumberland on the National Trial team and traveling all over the country. I felt like a college athlete all over again: fitting practices into my school schedule and doing any outside preparation I felt was necessary to be successful at the highest level. College athletics was essential in preparing me to be successful at Cumberland.

What was your most memorable experience as a college athlete, and so far as a law student?

My most memorable experience as a college athlete was clinching the doubles point against UGA who was ranked #1 in the country at the time.

My most memorable experience as a law student was advancing to the quarterfinals of the South Texas Mock Trial Competition with Curtis Seal and Drew Panella (we were the only team in the field of 30 teams comprised of all 2Ls) and being honored as the Outstanding Advocate for the competition.

MICAH MCKINNEY

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

Sport and Undergraduate Institution:
Basketball, Jefferson Davis Community College and Stillman College

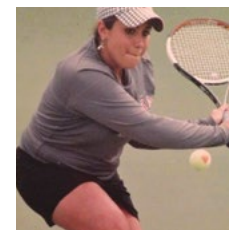
Tell us about your college athletic career.

I started out as a shooting guard my first year at Jefferson Davis Community College and my first year at Stillman College. While at Stillman, I was selected to the SIAC Commissioner's All-Academic Team and played a summer in the Dominican Republic for American International Sports Tours. During my college career my team counted on me to knock down threes and play solid defense. Our record, at both schools, was not that good, but it was fun to be able to compete against other great athletes.

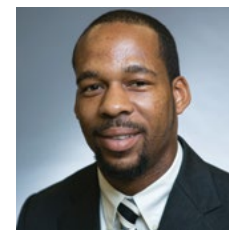
Do you feel that being an athlete during your undergraduate years helped prepare you for law school in any way?

I do think that being a collegiate athlete helped prepare me for law school. As an undergraduate, playing basketball and going to school was like a job. It really taught me to be disciplined, work hard, manage my time and sacrifice in order to be more successful in the future—all of which has helped me make a smoother transition to law school. Playing sports taught me early on to stay calm and focused, even when under pressure, so that I have a good chance to excel in whatever I decide to pursue. Even when things get tough you just stay calm and handle it. That mentality has helped me get through exams.

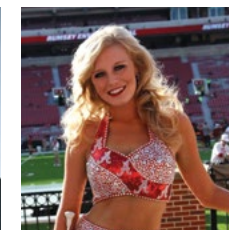
I think that law school and playing college sports are quite



Bianca Svensson



Micah McKinney



Katie Hilyer



Warren Brooks



Christian Flowers



Branden Moore

similar. Both demand a lot of your time, so it is important to maximize every bit of time that you get. Although it's more of a mental exhaustion, I'm pretty tired at the end of the day in law school just as I was playing sports as an undergraduate. Both require a sincere effort, practice and perseverance to be successful, and the competition is high.

What was your most memorable experience as a college athlete, and so far as a law student?

My most memorable experience as a college athlete was during my junior year, which was my first year at Stillman. We were playing Lane College, and I was the "Icy Hot" Player of the Half. I had 15 points from five 3's at halftime. The game was televised. Stillman is a Division II HBCU, and we were only on television about two games a year, so it felt good to play well when the cameras were rolling.

My most memorable experience as a law student was when I sat down to take my first final. It was Civil Procedure. I looked at the test, and I got so nervous. It seemed ridiculously long. My first thought was, this isn't for me, but I managed to calm myself down and get to work. I guess I did well enough, since I wasn't told to stay home after grades came in!

KATIE HILYER

Hometown: Clanton, Alabama

Sport and Undergraduate Institution:
Crimsonette, University of Alabama

Tell us about your college athletic career.

I started twirling baton when I was four years old. My mom, Elizabeth Hilyer Ginsburg '88, was head majorette at Troy University, so I had no choice but to learn to twirl! I always enjoyed it, but when I saw the Crimsonettes, I knew I just HAD to be one of them. So, I tried out to be a Crimsonette before my freshman year in April 2010. I was one of five lucky girls to be picked for the 2010–11 season. Tryouts are all about showmanship and showing off your technical twirling skills. For those who say twirling isn't a sport—you have obviously never tried it! We practiced every day from 3–5:30 a.m. with the band, plus additional practice time after that if needed. I'll never forget those

long practices when everyone had been standing on their feet for up to 10 hours twirling and learning routines for the game the next day. It was an endurance sport for sure. I had to keep up both mentally and physically. Another aspect that many sports don't have is the appearance aspect. I had to train like an athlete in order to look like one in that sparkly sequin bikini. On game day, I know everyone just sees sparkly outfits and teased hair, but the work that goes into it behind the scenes isn't always pretty. It is actually incredibly challenging.

Do you feel that being an athlete during your undergraduate years helped to prepare you for law school in any way?

YES! I learned how to structure my life to make sure I was on top of my game. I was an Alpha Chi Omega and had other activities I was involved in, so my schedule was pretty hectic. I had to schedule it all around Crimsonette life, just as I schedule my life around law school now. The Crimsonettes were also ambassadors for the university, just as the law students are for Cumberland. Being a Crimsonette did get me "out there" in front of a crowd and talking to fans, and allowed me to gain confidence that I know I use every time in a trial competition. Confidence is the key to everything. Even if I'm wrong, just like if I drop the baton, it's all about how I recover. I am not the only Crimsonette to use those skills in the law setting—one of my teammates is also a Cumberland alumna, Spenser Templeton Moore. She also used the courtroom as her "football field" or "stage." I think it is fair to say that we both like the show factor that translates from Crimsonette to trial attorney.

What was your most memorable experience as a college athlete, and so far as a law student?

As a Crimsonette, I got to cheer my team through two back-to-back national championships (I still have confetti from each), but I think my favorite moments are collectively every time I stepped on the field to do pregame at Bryant-Denny. I wish I could do it again!

As far as my most memorable experience as a law student, that has to be competing in the Williams Trial Competition this past spring and making it to the finals with my partner, Drew Bentley.

WARREN BROOKS

Hometown: Macon, Georgia

Sport and Undergraduate Institution:

Football, Shorter University

Tell us about your college athletic career.

Throughout high school my biggest dream was to play college football. That dream became reality when I signed as a preferred walk on at Shorter University. My college career was different than most because I did not see much of the field until my senior year. Although I did not have substantial playing time, I was able to develop as an athlete both mentally and physically during practice. I learned through my role on the team what it took to be part of something bigger than myself and how I could contribute every day to make my team better. I took my role on the team seriously through my effort and attitude. I look back now, and I would not trade a single moment I had with my teammates—I considered them my brothers.

Do you feel that being an athlete during your undergraduate years helped to prepare you for law school in any way?

Yes, I do believe that being a college athlete helped me prepare for law school. Football is a game that tests a person more mentally than physically. It teaches a player to continue to give effort consistently in the midst of adversity. Regardless of whether you are winning or losing, there are two things that are always within your control—your effort and attitude. If you play with great effort and great attitude, good things will happen. The same applies to law school. Law school is a mental test that is filled with adversity. Every week is a battle consisting of small victories and defeats. The key factor for me is having a great effort and attitude in the midst of the adversity that law school brings. Despite the rigors of law school, I continue to give one hundred and ten percent of my effort and to have a positive attitude so that good things will happen. If it weren't for playing college football, I would not be where I am today.

What was your most memorable experience as a college athlete, and so far as a law student?

My most memorable moment as a college athlete came during a team meeting in our chapel, on campus, the night before our home game. Coach Turner was speaking to us and brought up all the essential parts that make up a team. In reference to a Bible verse from 1 Corinthians 12, Coach Turner spoke of the “ultimate team player” and then he called my name. He spoke of my relentless effort, attitude and personal ethics to do what was right for the team. I was honored to be viewed by my coaches and teammates as such an integral part of our team, and it is a moment I will never forget.

My most memorable moment of law school thus far was when I walked out of the last exam of my first year. All the hard work and perseverance had paid off. The sense of accomplishment when I finished my first year of law school was awesome. I can't wait for the even greater feeling of accomplishment that will come with graduation.

CHRISTIAN FLOWERS

Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii

Sport and Undergraduate Institution:

Water Polo, Pepperdine University

Tell us about your college athletic career.

I played water polo for Pepperdine, which is a Division I school located in Malibu, California. They are in the same league as USC, UCLA, Stanford and California Berkeley. I was a center-back, which is the equivalent to a power forward in basketball. I got to play internationally in Croatia. Our head coach was the Olympic team coach and took the men's team to their first medal since the '80s. I only played from 2006–08, as I ended my career to study abroad, pursue academics and travel.

Do you feel that being an athlete during your undergraduate years helped to prepare you for law school in any way?

Absolutely. My water polo coach helped me to understand the difference between a “powerful mindset” and a “victim mindset.” The powerful person says, “I get to go to practice,” while the victim says, “I have to go to practice.” Powerful people always have choices, while victims never have a choice, and everything is, consequently, someone else's fault. Instead of creating excuses and justifications for cutting corners and explaining why others were better than me, I learned to view these situations as invitations to a higher level. In my opinion, this mindset directly translates into the law school environment. I think it is a privilege and an honor to be here at Cumberland, and I want to be the best attorney I can be—not just for myself, but so that I may better serve my clients, my firm and my community.

What was your most memorable experience as a college athlete, and so far as a law student?

My most memorable experience as an athlete would probably be my first weekend playing in an NCAA tournament. In my very first game I got “rolled” for head butting the opposing player. Too much adrenaline, and well... it's a physical game. We had a double-header that day and the very next game I scored my first goal. It was such a proud moment, but the saying went through my head, “Act like you've been there before,” so with a face as stoic as granite I turned back to my bench and to my surprise and

embarrassment, my whole team was jumping up and down, beating their chests and waving towels in celebration of my first official goal as a Pepperdine Wave. After that, I couldn't help it—a big, cheesy grin popped out!

My most memorable experience thus far as a law student began as I sat in the moot courtroom with my 1L classmates reviewing a case about liability and transfer of ownership of peach trees. I had read the entire case the night before so I was feeling well prepared and perhaps a little too cocky. As Professor DeBow kicked us off he asked, “Is this a state or federal case?” and before anyone could mumble under their breath the correct answer I boldly proclaimed “Federal!” with all the gusto and conviction a 1L could. And before I could even blink, a rumble of “Nooooo” flooded my eardrums from all sides. I had a 50/50 shot, and I got it wrong. That was pretty embarrassing, but I got the fear of being wrong out of the way in one fell swoop, and I did it in front of my whole class before the semester had even started. Everything has been gravy after that!

BRANDEN MOORE

Hometown: Forest, Mississippi

Sport and Undergraduate Institution:

Football, Samford University

Tell us about your college athletic career.

I was an all-state offensive lineman in high school in Mississippi and was recruited to Samford on a full scholarship. While at Samford, I did not play until my second year, in which I played in around six games. My junior year I started at left tackle on the offensive line. That year we went 7–4, and I had the opportunity to play on ESPN twice, as well as play against University of Kentucky. In the game against Kentucky, my shoulder dislocated, which led to me needing surgery to repair it. Due to this, I missed all of preseason for my senior year, and my position. I split time at right tackle with another player until halfway through the season, when I decided to offer to the coaches that I lose about 20 lbs and move to tight-end, where we needed help. The coaches appreciated this, and I finished out my senior season as a co-captain and tight end. In my senior season, my senior class had the privilege of leading Samford to their first ever Southern Conference Championship and received a bid to go to the playoffs. I also had the opportunity to help Samford defeat its first ever Division 1a school in Georgia State in the Georgia Dome. Over my four years, I had the privilege of playing at Auburn University, University of Kentucky and the University of Arkansas.

Do you feel that being an athlete during your undergraduate years helped to prepare you for law school in any way?

Playing football as an undergraduate really helped me prepare for law school by teaching me how important it is to manage your time and be aware that sometimes there just isn't enough of it. Learning to budget time and take notice of what is important to you during your free time is huge, and football really made that apparent. Besides that, law school is a lot like college sports because it's practically a job you aren't paid for. You have to treat it as such and work hard to get results out of it. Sometimes the best lessons are taught the hard way. In football it was getting beaten up during drills freshman year and in law school it was walking out of that first exam feeling like you were just hit by a truck. Football taught me to get back up, brush off the dirt and get ready to go again, which applies heavily in law school. Thick skin is a must.

What was your most memorable experience as a college athlete, and so far as a law student?

I have had several most memorable moments in college football—one can't really sum it up. Senior year we won the conference championship in overtime against Elon, 33–32, and it was the most incredible ending to a game I have ever been a part of. Also, when we broke a 45-yard run for a touchdown against the University of Arkansas in their memorial stadium to take the lead 21–17. Hearing a crowd be ear-piercingly loud the entire game go absolutely silent as we took the lead late in the game was one of the most satisfying feelings ever.

My favorite law school memory so far has to be walking out of the school after my last final of first year, looking at my classmates and being in awe of the fact that we were already done with first year. Time flew by, and, sadly, I expect it will continue to for the next two years.

Caroline E. Crowley Named Class of 2019 Jere F. White Jr. Fellow



Caroline Crowley is from Dothan, Alabama. She recently graduated summa cum laude from Troy University where she studied communication and public relations. Crowley was involved in the Student Government Association and several campus philanthropic organizations, including Conversation Partners. Through the organization, foreign exchange students are paired with peers from the United States to improve English language skills and cross-cultural communication skills.

Crowley has long been passionate about serving those with special needs. She has been actively involved in organizations such as Special Olympics, Shane's Inspiration All-Inclusive Playgrounds and the Miracle League. Crowley has served as the National Young Spokesperson for the Miracle League, where she traveled nationwide promoting funding for the development of Miracle League baseball fields. In addition, Crowley also served as the national teen spokesperson for the American Heart

Association's Go Red! For Women, teaching and promoting proactive measures to ensure heart health among adolescent women. In her spare time, she enjoys tutoring for standardized tests, running and restoring antique furniture.

According to Crowley, the mere opportunity to be selected as a finalist for the Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship Scholarship was both a blessing and an honor in itself. "As I stood among the other interviewees, it really affirmed that simply being accepted into such a prestigious law school is a huge accomplishment for us all," she said. "I was absolutely astounded when I got the call that I had been chosen for the fellowship. I am nearly positive that my 'Wow, are you kidding?' was the least eloquent response ever received, but there are no words to express my gratitude to the scholarship committee for giving me this financial gift and opportunity to both network with and learn from some of the greatest minds in our field."



First Jere F. White Jr. Fellow Graduates

Caroline Collins Muse, the first student awarded with the Jere F. White Jr. Fellowship, graduated cum laude in May 2016. While a student at Cumberland, she was selected to be an admissions ambassador, Who's Who, and received a scholar of merit certificate. Muse is employed at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as an associate.



INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF 2019

Cumberland School of Law welcomed 149 new law students to campus for first-year orientation Aug. 15–17. The week included informational sessions conducted by the Office of Admission, as well as workshops conducted by professors who teach the first-year Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (LLR) course. On Wednesday, the first-year class, faculty and staff embarked on group service projects throughout the Birmingham area for Cumberland School of Law's annual First-Year Service Day and provided hundreds of volunteer hours in one afternoon to community service projects.

Students in the Class of 2019 hail from 15 states and are graduates of 65 colleges and universities. Their median LSAT score is 152, and their median GPA is 3.31 (both medians increased from last year.) The median age is 24—the youngest

student is 20; the oldest is 49. The group is 50.5% female and 49.5% male, and the minority percentage is 20%. The group includes two Samford 3+3 students, 13 married students, seven military students and eight legacy students.

"We are thrilled to have such a diverse and accomplished group of students this year, and we're proud they have chosen Cumberland for the start of their legal careers," said Jen Hartzog, Cumberland's director of admission. "I've been very impressed thus far with their attitudes and eagerness, and I'm excited to see what they achieve during their time here and beyond."

Cumberland School of Law also welcomed three visiting students from the University of East Anglia in the United Kingdom and one visiting student from NALSAR University in India.



VICTOR "VIC" KELLEY

Victor "Vic" Kelley is a retired Marine officer, having served as both an infantry officer and a judge advocate. While on active duty as an infantryman, his positions included commanding a rifle platoon, commanding two rifle companies and chief of tactics at OCS. As a lawyer, he served as chief defense counsel, senior trial counsel, staff judge advocate and military judge. After retirement, he served as assistant United States attorney for the northern district of Alabama, and assistant attorney general for the state of Alabama. His concentration is now exclusively the practice of military and civilian criminal and administrative law. His Martindale-Hubbell rating for professional competence is "A.V.", and he is listed in its Register of Preeminent Lawyers. Kelley is a frequent lecturer on military law and procedure. He has taught at Emory University School of Law, University of Alabama Institute of Continuing Legal Education, The Center for American and International Law, Army and Air Force Judge Advocate General's Schools, and Naval Justice School.

How long have you been an adjunct professor at Cumberland, and what classes have you taught?

I was a recently retired Marine, serving as an assistant United States attorney here in Birmingham in 1990. Military Justice was to be taught in the summer term, but the professor who was to teach the course died unexpectedly. I got a "911" telephone call from my friend, Professor Alex Bolla, who was then dean of students. Being aware of my military law background, he asked me if I could teach the course and I said, "Sure." Twenty-six years and about that many military justice classes later, I remain flattered that the professors and administration of Cumberland School of Law continue to ask me to teach the course.

In 1991, Cumberland began an ambitious trial advocate initiative. Professor Larry Iannotti spearheaded this initiative. It required adjuncts to evaluate the students in a separate microcosm of the trial process each week. It was called Basic Trial Skills. If I recall correctly, the first adjuncts to teach the course were:

Judge Josh Mullins, Judge Jim Hard, Judge Jim Garrett, Mike Rasmussen and me. As a result of Larry's and others' initiatives, Cumberland now consistently remains in the top tier of the nation's law schools in trial skills and produces some of the best trial lawyers in the country.

Over the years I've also taught courses in the application of the 4th Amendment, Voir Dire and Jury Selection, Advanced Problems in Evidence and CLE for new lawyers.

With your busy schedule, why do you continue to teach?

I teach because I enjoy it. Teaching takes time and preparation, but it's a welcome break from the active practice of law. Years ago I was told, "You never know your subject quite so well as when you have to teach it." I think that is correct. Teaching a particular subject requires that the teacher remain current and, I believe, makes for a better lawyer.

What is your method of teaching, and has it changed over the years?

Cumberland makes adjunct professors feel like a genuine part of the permanent faculty. But this serious obligation is tempered by the fact that I consider myself to be "only" an adjunct, not a "real" professor. In my view, this gives me the best of both worlds: the mantle of the school's reputation and the "freedom" to teach a little off center—a bit out of the bolt of cloth of The Dead Poets Society.

What advice do you offer to students about the start of their careers?

I'm not much on "advice" to others, but if pressed, it would be this: What a wonderful privilege and opportunity to serve is a law degree. But don't let the rigors and stresses of the profession consume you. For most lawyers, there is a bit of Drano in our veins, and it will eat you up if you let it. Try to keep things in perspective and keep some balance in your life. Easy for me to say, but hard to do.



KELLI ROBINSON

Kelli Robinson joined the Corporate Compliance Department of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama in August 2016, and currently serves as corporate compliance consultant and HIPAA analyst. From 2006 to 2016, Robinson practiced law with Sirote & Permutt, P.C., working exclusively with the Health Care Group since 2007. Robinson advised and assisted a wide variety of health care clients on a number of legal compliance issues, including certificate of need, licensure, credentialing, reimbursement, contracting, health care litigation, HIPAA, and fraud and abuse laws. Prior to her legal career, Robinson worked twelve years in corporate human resources for such companies as Parisian, HealthSouth, Compass Bank and Humana. Robinson earned a B.S. in business and public administration from Louisiana State University and a J.D. from Cumberland School of Law. Robinson has a special place in her heart for Girls Inc. of Central Alabama where she has volunteered since 2002 and served as board chair in 2014. Robinson has also been honored as Big Sister of the Year by Birmingham Big Brother/Big Sister.

How long have you been an adjunct professor at Cumberland, and what classes have you taught?

Currently, I teach Healthcare Compliance: Laws and Regulations (MHLP 530) and Healthcare Privacy and Security (MHLP 570). This is my first year teaching as an adjunct professor, and I am thrilled to be affiliated with Cumberland and the Master of Science in Health Law and Policy program.

With your busy schedule, why did you decide to teach?

Prior to law school, I worked in corporate human resources for 12 years with a specialty in training and development. As an adjunct professor, I am

able to blend my corporate training and development experience with my health care legal experience. Teaching keeps me up-to-date on changes in health care statutory and regulatory law, and ultimately makes me a better member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama Corporate Compliance team.

What is your teaching style, and has your method of teaching changed over the years?

Because my background is in corporate training and development, I believe strongly in experiential learning, and I value the knowledge and experience that each student brings to the class. Therefore, I work hard to tap into

students' backgrounds and work experiences as often as I can and for the benefit of all of the other students in the course. I am also continuously exploring new techniques for engaging students in the online learning environment.

What advice do you offer students about the start of their careers?

Build and foster the relationships you are forming now with fellow students, professors and administration. Those relationships will serve you well in the future in so many different and meaningful ways. Commit now to being an active and supportive Cumberland alum.



LESLIE ("LES") STURDIVANT ENNIS

Les Ennis holds both a J.D. and Ph.D. and completed, post-doctorally, the Management Development Program (MDP) at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education. He is currently director of graduate admissions as well as professor at Orlean Beeson School of Education and Cumberland School of Law. He became a member of the Alabama Bar and the federal courts in 1992 after graduating from Cumberland. In 2005, Dr. Ennis received admittance to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States. Dr. Ennis has been married to Kristi Rickles Ennis since 1993 and has three children—Jonathan, Emily and Davis.

What classes do you teach at Cumberland, and how long have you taught?

I have taught at Cumberland since 1997 (19 years). I have taught Law Office Practice and Management (LAW 829) every fall, spring and summer since I started. Additionally, I have taught Professional Responsibilities—Ethics (LAW 546) on several occasions.

With your busy schedule, why do you continue to teach?

I teach because I sincerely feel it is an opportunity to help change lives, and it energizes me. As a practicing attorney full time in Trussville, a few years ago now, some of my toughest days were completely refreshed once I stepped into the classroom to teach at the end of the day. I remember as a student—completely void of any prior exposure to the law—professors at Cumberland who uniquely reached me intellectually and personally to realize the practice of law as a vocation and calling. I have always felt an obligation to repay what I received.

What is your teaching style, and has your method of teaching changed over the years?

I guess my style would be best described as conversational and practical—with rigor. My students are primarily 3Ls. The reality then is that the students I teach are going to be practicing attorneys soon. I strive to teach them accordingly. I teach toward a skill set that will allow them to be professional, ethical and successful. The law changes over the years but the students remain basically the same. They are eager and motivated. They want to be successful.

The biggest change, I have learned, needs to be in myself and how I relate and communicate to students. A few years ago, I was lecturing and used an example from pop culture that I had used for some time to illustrate a point. I looked up and saw blank stares. It dawned on me in that moment that I age every year that I teach but every new cycle of students comes in, for the most part, at the same age. I do not want to move slowly every year away from them. It was an epiphany for me and has impacted my teaching. Abraham Maslow said, "When the only tool one has is a hammer, eventually everything begins to look like a nail." My goal in teaching is to avoid seeing nails.

What advice do you offer students about the start of their careers?

I ask them to never lose sight of the forest by only seeing the trees. At the beginning of each class, on the first day, we all go around the room and introduce ourselves. The students generally know each other but I do not know them. I ask them to tell everyone, among other things, what they want to do with their degree when they graduate. The answers are always revealing. I remind them that a law license will open doors they never anticipated but with it comes great responsibility. Bob Ross was a painter on television for many years who had a show on "how to." He would paint and instruct so the viewers could learn to do it themselves. I tell the class at some point in the semester what he used to say before he would drop a tree in the perfect place—it's your painting and your tree—you can put it any place you want. My advice to them is the same. Do with your degree that which fulfills you the most, and everyone will find benefit from it.

2016 Faculty Awards

On May 19, a ceremony and reception was held at Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC to recognize Cumberland faculty members who received various awards for the 2015–16 school year. The following awards were presented:



Harvey S. Jackson
Teaching Award for
First-Year Courses
**Professor
William "Bill" Ross**



Harvey S. Jackson
Teaching Award for
Upper-Level Courses
**Professor
Mike Floyd**



Lightfoot, Franklin &
White, LLC Faculty
Scholarship Award
**Academic Dean
Brannon Denning
and Professor
Paul Kuruk**



Outstanding Adjunct
Professor Award
**Jay St. Clair of Littler
Mendelson, PC.**



Introducing Visiting Faculty Member Tracey Roberts

Professor Tracey Roberts joins the Cumberland School of Law faculty this fall, teaching tax courses and property. She earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard University, her law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School and her LL.M. in tax from NYU School of Law. She has taught a variety of tax, property and environmental law courses at several law schools, most recently Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California.

Before becoming a professor, Roberts practiced law for 14 years primarily in the area of commercial real estate and

affordable housing, specializing in tax credit financing, mixed-use real estate development and sustainable land use planning at Alston & Bird, LLP and Arnall Golden Gregory, LLP in Atlanta, Georgia, and at Jacobs Chase in Denver, Colorado. She also developed technology projects for four years for Atlanta Legal Aid and Georgia Legal Services Program to expand access to legal information and legal services. She is licensed to practice law in Georgia and Colorado.



Alumnus Plays Vital Role in Restoring Birmingham's Historic Lyric Theater

One of Birmingham's historic downtown landmarks, the once derelict Lyric Theatre, is now restored to its former glory due in large part to the decades-long hard work and determination of a Cumberland alumnus, Danny Evans '75.

In 1987, Evans and his friend, Cecil Whitmire, formed a nonprofit organization, Birmingham Landmarks, for the sole purpose of saving the Alabama Theatre and its Wurlitzer organ. At the time, the 1927 movie house was facing bankruptcy, and they were concerned about what would happen to the organ during a bankruptcy proceeding. As hobby pianists, the desire to preserve the rare instrument inspired Evans and Whitmire to action. Birmingham Landmarks acquired the Alabama Theatre in 1987, and a full restoration was completed by 1990.

The Alabama Theatre continued to be the primary focus of Birmingham Landmarks until 1991, when the Newman Waters family, which had owned several movie houses in the Birmingham area and had title to the Lyric, donated the theatre and a companion office building to the organization.

Built in 1914 for B.F. Keith's Vaudeville circuit, in its heyday the Lyric hosted famous acts such as Mae West, the Marx Brothers, Sophie Tucker, Will Rogers and Milton Berle. Although seating was segregated, the theatre was one of the first venues in the South where blacks and whites could watch the same show at the same time for the same price. Sadly, the rise of the motion picture signaled the fall of vaudeville acts, and the Lyric began to lose customers to its across-the-street neighbor, the lavish Alabama Theatre, in the late 1920s. It closed in 1958, only to

reopen in the '70s as an art-film house, then in the '80s for a brief run as porn-film house, before being shuttered up for good.

By the time the Lyric was gifted to Birmingham Landmarks, it was a decaying shadow of its former self. While grateful for the opportunity to revive yet another historic theatre, Evans recalls that he and Whitmire were initially overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task ahead of them.

"The Lyric was in such disrepair, so deteriorated, that we knew we would have to raise a tremendous amount of money to renovate it," says Evans. "It needed a new roof and new windows just to halt further deterioration, so we scraped up enough money for those things. The Lyric was one of the first concrete and steel buildings in the city, so we knew we at least had solid bones to work with. If it wasn't for its solid construction, it probably would've been torn down long before it fell into our laps."

After obtaining economic impact studies, getting estimates, evaluations and more research, the original estimate to renovate the Lyric was \$5.5 million. Each year, the pieces very slowly came together to progress on the massive project. Evans and his wife, Alexandria, spent many Saturdays sweeping the building out themselves, removing dead birds and debris. The organization hired additional staff to assist with fundraising, management and outreach. Still, progress was slow.

Whitmire, who passed away in 2010, often said that fundraising for the Lyric was far more challenging than it had been for the Alabama, largely because the vaudeville generation had passed away by that time and had no emotional connection to the theatre. According to Evans, there wasn't much going on in

downtown Birmingham for years, and the economic downturn dissuaded donors.

However, around the time Whitmire passed away, downtown Birmingham began undergoing a revitalization. Old office spaces started being converted into lofts, new breweries, bars and restaurants started opening, and Railroad Park and Regions Field were constructed. The economy was slowly coming around, and interest rates were improving. In 2013, Birmingham Landmarks kicked off a fundraising campaign, "Light up the Lyric," that raised over \$8 million. A bright, shiny new marquee was installed, and things were looking up. As plans progressed, however, it became apparent that \$10 million was needed to complete the major renovations, obtain a certificate of occupancy and officially open the doors.

The organization hired an attorney who was able to obtain historic tax credits from the federal and state governments, and the Lyric was approved for over \$3 million in tax credits. But there was a catch. The doors of the Lyric had to be open by the end of 2015 in order for the organization to obtain the tax credits, leaving less than 10 months to complete the renovation. Evans says he spent many sleepless nights wondering whether they could pull it off.

Unbelievably, the renovation was completed just in the nick of time, and the Lyric's certificate of occupancy was obtained on Dec. 29, 2015. The renovated theatre has a capacity of about 750 people, offers seating on two levels (the floor and mezzanine),

with the third level reserved for sound and lighting gear. Twelve opera boxes flank the sides of the theater, with a total of 23 boxes included in the blueprint. In addition to practical upgrades such as a brand new heating and air system, the theatre's ornate interior, decorated in shades of blue, white and gleaming gold, has been painstakingly restored to its former splendor.

A grand opening celebratory show featuring vaudeville acts was performed in January 2016 to a sold-out crowd, 102 years after the Lyric originally opened. The theatre has been up and running ever since, hosting a wide variety of acts from around the world including the State Ballet Theatre of Russia, Chris Isaak, Boz Scaggs, Taj Mahal, Citizen Cope, the Drive-By Truckers and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, among others. Evans remains the board chairman of Birmingham Landmarks and says their work is far from over.

"There are still many projects left to complete at the Lyric, from expanded dressing rooms to a green room, rehearsal spaces and a box office, says Evans. "And then there's the adjoining office building that was formerly the Magestic Theatre, another vaudeville theatre from the early 1900s. We aren't sure of our plans for that space yet; we're continuing to focus on the Lyric for the time being."

For more details about the renovation or to view the event schedule, go to lyricbham.com.



Alumni in Shelby County, Alabama Are Working Together To Raise Awareness About **CHILD TRAFFICKING**



Lauren J. Hartin '10 is president/CEO and cofounder of Blanket Fort Hope, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Born in Jacksonville, Alabama, and raised in Powder Springs, Georgia, Hartin is devoting her time and attention to serving her community. In 2012–13, during the 2nd Global Think Tank, Business as Mission (now BAM Global), she participated in a group, “Business as Mission and Human Trafficking: Prevention and Restoration.” Hartin served on the board of directors and as interim chief operations officer for an organization assisting victims of human trafficking. In January 2015, she, along with her husband, alumnus Jay Hartin '10, started Blanket Fort Hope. Blanket Fort Hope exists to assist child trafficking victims and provide human trafficking prevention education. To further the

Hartin’s mission of prevention education, they produced an educational video during their involvement with Leadership Shelby County. Instrumental in this effort were two other Cumberland lawyers: H. Emmanuel Scozzaro '03 and Jill Lee '92. In addition to practicing law full time in Shelby County, they are all working to get the video into schools across Alabama.

“This project and the collaboration that has resulted will go a long way to protect our kids from being preyed upon by traffickers,” says Lauren. “We hope and pray that it will contribute to ending this horrible crime in our state.”

For more information and to view the video, go to blanketforhope.org or [facebook.com/blanketforhope](https://www.facebook.com/blanketforhope).

Alumnus Selected as a Samford University 2016 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR



Stephen B. Moss '68, partner in Holland & Knight's Fort Lauderdale, Florida, office was recently named one of Samford University's 2016 Humanitarians of the Year.

After graduating in 1968 from Cumberland School of Law, Moss served for two years in active duty, including one year in Vietnam. Later, inspired by his daughter, who became permanently disabled while serving in Iraq, Moss was determined to help veterans obtain housing, legal care and health care. Over the course of several years, he rounded up volunteers, raised funding and drafted the infrastructure to launch Mission United in Jan. 2013. In just over three years, Mission United has directly assisted over 4,300 veterans in obtaining housing, legal assistance and health care.

Moss and his co-volunteers formed partnerships with others committed to the cause and applied for and received a grant for over \$2 million from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs specifically to house homeless veterans. They housed over 900 veterans in Broward County, Florida. Moss grew his group of six volunteers to over 700 volunteers, and now there are over 270 lawyers in Broward County alone doing pro bono legal work for veterans. This translates to over 2,000 hours or over \$600,000 in free legal services over the past three plus years.

Today, Mission United is part of United Way in and outside of

Broward County. Joining United Way gave this initial group of volunteers a way to fuel and grow their efforts exponentially. Mission United is now a national model for other veterans' resource groups.

For Moss, Mission United is simply a labor of love. Moss fondly recalls his time as a law student at Cumberland. One memory that particularly stands out in his mind is when he was assigned to oversee a legal aid clinic in an economically depressed area of Birmingham to assist individuals who could not otherwise afford legal services. "I observed a strong dedication by the legal aid staff to assist these clients," says Moss, who learned the importance of being proactive, becoming a champion for the underdog and causing changes that improve the lives of others. "Do not accept the status quo or be complacent. Rather, use your heart and soul, and make dreams become a reality. It is amazing what we can accomplish with humility, collaboration and teamwork."

On June 10, 2015, a reporter for the Orlando Sentinel wrote, "The program has already won praise from congressional representatives and was identified by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as one of the top reintegration programs in the nation."

For more information about Mission United or to donate, go to unitedwaybroward.org/missionunited.

Alumnus Named CVA-NOVA Pro Bono Advocate of the Year

Two of the nation's leading advocacy organizations for veterans—the Center for Veterans Advancement (CVA) and the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates Inc. (NOVA)—awarded the CVA-NOVA Pro Bono Advocate of the Year Award to Robert B. Goss, a Houston veterans' law attorney, NOVA board member and 2006 Cumberland School of Law graduate. Goss accepted the honor on March 12 at NOVA's Spring Conference in Las Vegas.

Established in 2009, the CVA/NOVA Pro Bono Advocates program was created in response to the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) initiative to end veteran homelessness and the increased demand for legal assistance from poverty-stricken veterans. The annual award is given to an outstanding NOVA member who exemplifies the pro bono spirit by providing free legal services to veterans unable to afford them.

Goss is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he completed a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in aerospace engineering. After receiving his law degree from Cumberland, he graduated from the University of Houston Law



Center with two Masters of Law.

He currently serves on the NOVA board of directors and the NOVA ethics, outreach and seminar committees. Licensed in Alabama and Texas, Goss is also a member of several professional associations, including the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, National Association of Consumer Advocates, and the Military and Veterans Law section of the State Bar of Texas (SBOT). He was the driving force for the SBOT adding veterans as a section. Goss holds numerous military decorations and professional licenses.

W. Todd Carlisle (Samford '88, Cumberland '91) Serving as President of Samford University Alumni Association

Carlisle is president of the law firm Sirote & Permutt and a member of the firm's board of directors. Todd also serves as the co-chair of the firm's Privacy & Data Security Practice Group and is also a member of Sirote & Permutt's Corporate and Tax practice group where he provides a wide range of services for businesses and families. He is a trusted adviser to clients in diverse indus-



tries including insurance, financial services, health care and technology. During his time in law school, Carlisle served as editor-in-chief of *Cumberland Law Review*.

A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY ACTIVITIES FEB. 2016–JULY 2016

Cassandra Adams

On March 15, Adams participated in a joint program with the Alabama Cooperative Extension program Estate Planning Basics in Moody, Alabama. She spoke to a group of St. Clair County residents about the importance of end-of-life planning.

On March 19, Adams served as guest moderator for the Aging in Alabama Symposium, hosted by Alabama A&M University in Huntsville, Alabama.

On March 21, Adams was a conference panelist at the American Society on Aging National Conference in Washington, D.C. The panel discussion was about community collaborations and highlighted the joint project between Alabama Cooperative Extensions and the Cumberland Community Mediation Center.

On April 19, Adams was the guest speaker during campus-wide convocation at Reid Chapel. Her topic was "She Thought HE was the Gardener." The audience gave her a standing ovation.

On April 14, Adams was a participant in an Anti-Poverty Community Roundtable, hosted by the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty.

Brad Bishop

On March 11, Bishop spoke on the topic "Legal and Ethical Issues for Courts to Consider in Handling Indigent Cases," to the Municipal Judges and Magistrates Annual

Conference in Hoover, Alabama.

On March 14, Bishop was quoted in *Route Fifty*, a publication from Atlantic Media that covers state and local governments around the U.S. His contribution to the article was his response to the U.S. Department of Justice news release regarding fine and fee practices.

Governor Albert Brewer

Brewer was inducted into the Morgan County Leadership Hall of Fame on March 10.

Judge John Carroll '74

On Feb. 19 and 20 Carroll was in Washington, D.C., attending a meeting of the committee of the Uniform Law Commission, which was drafting a Model Veteran's Court Act. The committee's draft was presented for its first reading before the Uniform Law Commission at its annual meeting in July.

Carroll was quoted by WVTM13 about the timeline for replacing Justice Scalia.

Carroll was quoted by ABC3340 about increasing minimum wage in Alabama.

Carroll spoke to the Birmingham Young Men and Women's Business Club about the Alabama Ethics Act and the Alabama Ethics Commission on Feb. 18.

From Oct. 1, 2014 to April 15, 2015, Judge Carroll was the acting director of the Alabama Ethics Commission.

Alyssa DiRusso

DiRusso attended the Southern Region conference of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel in Birmingham on April 22–24, where she was delighted to see so many successful Cumberland alums in estate planning practice. Alumna Liz Hutchins '84 of Sirole is the Alabama state chair of ACTEC and led the organization of the conference. Adjunct professor and Cumberland alumnus Craig Stephens '97 led a discussion panel and several other Cumberland alums participated in various roles in the planning and implementation of an impressive professional program. DiRusso is an academic fellow of the college.

Wendy Greene

Greene was interviewed on the current status of Title VII protection against misperception discrimination in the workplace. On March 2, quotes from the interview were featured in the *BNA Daily Labor Report* article: "Is Perceived-As Bias Prohibited by Title VII?". Professor Greene's award-winning article, "Categorically Black, White, or Wrong: Misperception Discrimination" and the State of Title VII Protection" is an influential authority on the issue, and her findings were also cited in the BNA analysis.

On March 18, Greene presented her scholarship on misperception discrimination as a special plenary panelist during the 14th Annual Marco Biagi Foundation (MBF) Conference. The MBF Conference is an international meeting devoted to international and comparative employment and

labor relations hosted by the University of Modena in Modena, Italy; this year, 13 countries were represented.

Woodrow Hartzog '03

Hartzog was quoted in the Swiss newspaper *St. Galler Tagblatt* on a story about the future of passwords and biometric systems.

Hartzog's article, "The Ultimate Unifying Approach to Complying with All Laws & Regulations" is forthcoming in *The Green Bag: An Entertainment Journal of Law*.

Hartzog gave a talk on U.S. robotics law in Tokyo, Japan, at an event on Japan's robotic revolution, hosted by Japan's Ministry of Economy and Trade Industry (METI) on Feb. 15.

Hartzog was quoted in a WBRC story about Apple's resistance to the FBI's request to help them break the security system of the iPhone.

Hartzog published an article with Neil Richards in *The Guardian* over Apple's dispute with the FBI titled, "Apple v the FBI: Why the 1789 All Writs Act is the Wrong Tool."

On March 4, the Center on Law and Information Policy at Fordham University Law School hosted a workshop in New York City for Hartzog's forthcoming book, *Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies*. Experts in law and technology from around the U.S. came to give feedback on the work in progress.

Hartzog was quoted in a story on biometrics in *Wired* in March.

Hartzog's essay critiquing the notion of "warrant-proof phones" that the government has developed in its recent fight against Apple was published by *MIT Technology Review*.

Hartzog led a workshop at the annual We Robot Conference at the University of Miami School of Law titled "Juris Machina: Legal Aspects of Robotics" in April.

On April 8, Hartzog workshopped draft chapters from his forthcoming book *Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies* at the University of California Berkeley Law School. He also held a public talk on privacy and design at the school.

Hartzog moderated a panel on the rules of the Trans Pacific Partnership for the digital economy as part of the Association for Pacific Rim Universities Digital Economy Business Office meeting hosted by Keio University in Tokyo, Japan.

Hartzog was quoted in a *Wired* piece "Bots Need to Learn Some Manners and It's Up to Us to Teach Them."

Hartzog gave two talks at the University of Houston Law Center on his forthcoming book, *Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies* and "Laws for a Robotic Future." He was hosted by the Institute for Intellectual Property and Information Law.

Schirn magazine, part of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, published an essay by Hartzog and Evan Selinger about facial recognition technologies titled "When Selfies Become Surveillance Beacons." The essay is part of the institution's "Me: The Limitless Self" group exhibition.

Hartzog's article with Lisa Shay, Greg Conti and John Nelson titled "Inefficiently Automated Law Enforcement" was published in the *Michigan State Law Review*.

Hartzog was quoted in the Canadian newspaper *The Globe and Mail* story titled "Paying Without Passwords and PINs."

On May 19, *Slate* published an essay Hartzog wrote titled "There is No Such Thing as Public Data."

On May 27, Hartzog was quoted in a *Fusion* article, "Facebook is Using Your Phone's Location to Suggest New Friends—Which could be a Privacy Disaster."

While in London, Hartzog gave two keynote talks: one at the Open Data Institute and one at an event hosted by the Web Science Institute.

Paul Kuruk

Kuruk's article "Regulating Access to Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources: The Disclosure Requirement as a Strategy to Combat Biopiracy" was published in volume 17 of *San Diego International Law Journal*.

Kuruk participated in a meeting of the Intergovernmen-

tal Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (IGC) held in Geneva, Switzerland Feb. 15–19. The IGC is tasked with developing international legal instruments that will ensure the effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. During the meeting, Kuruk made a presentation on "The Definition and Sanctions for the Misappropriation of Genetic Resources."

William Ross

Ross' commentary, "Why Obama Should Want to Make a Recess Appointment to the Supreme Court," was published online in *Jurist* on February 17.

Ross published a *Jurist* column about Justice Ginsburg's public criticisms of Donald Trump.

Grace Simms

Simms spoke at the Corporate Counsel Conference in Birmingham. Her topic was "Useful Apps and More for Corporate Counsel."

David Smolin

Smolin was quoted in a *Biblical Recorder* article and a *Baptist Press* article about Justice Scalia's legal and Christian views.

Smolin was quoted in a new book on China's one-child policy by Mei Fong, *One Child: The Story of China's Most Radical Experiment* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016).

Belle Stoddard '78

Along with another Cumberland alumna, Stoddard is a member of the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame Board of Directors. The organization inducted the two women during the 45th Installation Ceremony at Judson College.



WARREN RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Corporate Finance, but also Civil Procedure and Professional Responsibility. Professor Warren assumed the role of assistant dean in 1989, which she maintained until 2014. In that role, she oversaw the law school's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program and created numerous events that became mainstays of CLE in Alabama, including bankruptcy and health law events and the now-famous CLE-by-the-hour.

Professor Warren is also one of the founding professors of Cumberland's Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (LLR) program, a six-hour graded course for first-year students that provides hands-on, practical experience in basic skills. She volunteered to serve as an LLR instructor during the program's formative years, thus helping to shape it into the unique, effective program it is today.

Professor Warren also served a short

stint as associate dean of academic affairs on top of her CLE duties and her partial teaching load. She served in all of those capacities from July 1991 to December 1992, at which time she gave up her associate dean duties.

According to Dean Henry C. "Corky" Strickland III, while Professor Warren will be remembered for her outstanding teaching and her many administrative accomplishments, she will most be remembered as a friend.

"She always greeted faculty, staff and students alike with a smile and pleasant conversation," recalls Strickland. "Students could count on her for sympathetic but sound advice. Lawyers throughout Alabama know her kind and gracious demeanor from her gentle but effective cajoling as she organized, coordinated, hosted and presented CLE programs throughout the state."



HARTZOG AWARDED TENURE

The Board of Trustees of Samford University voted to award tenure to Cumberland School of Law Associate Professor Woodrow "Woody" Hartzog, and to name him the Starnes Professor of Law.

According to Cumberland School of Law Dean Henry C. "Corky" Strickland III, Professor Hartzog follows in many traditions of the best Cumberland professors. He is a prolific scholar, having already established himself as a global leader in his field with over 25 major articles and book chapters in the last four years, including such leading journals as the *California Law Review*, the *Columbia Law Review*, and the *Michigan Law Review*. In addition, he has written countless articles for blogs and popular media. He is also a sought-after speaker, having given lectures by invitation at such institutions as Cambridge University, New York University, Stanford Law School and Yale Law School.

He has also given talks to the Federal Trade Commission, Facebook, Google and testified before Congress. Finally, in the best tradition of Cumberland faculty, Professor Hartzog is an outstanding teacher. Students give him extraordinary reviews on evaluations, and they report receiving extensive help from him on classwork, career planning, symposia and many other matters.

Having received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Samford, Professor Hartzog is a true "bulldog." He also holds an LL.M. in intellectual property from George Washington University Law School and a Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of North Carolina. Professor Hartzog's investiture ceremony took place on Thursday, Sept. 29 in the John L. Carroll Moot Courtroom.



Register Today!

Details and registration are available at samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/continuing-education.



Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute

Presented by Samford University's Cumberland School of Law and the American College of Trial Lawyers

Friday, Nov. 11, 2016

The Sheraton Hotel, Downtown Birmingham
8:30 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Fred D. Gray
6 CLE hours, including 1 ethics hour

Fred D. Gray is a civil rights attorney, preacher, author and former elected official. His clients have included Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. He played a pivotal role in dismantling legal segregation in the state of Alabama. Every attendee will receive a signed copy of his book, *Bus Ride to Justice*.

Proceeds fund the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows program at Cumberland School of Law. Every attendee will be entered in drawings to win tickets to the SEC Championship Football Game and Iron Bowl Football Game, among other prizes.



Interested in watching Samford Athletics and in the opportunity to meet other Samford University alumni? The Bulldog Club provides support for Samford's 350 student-athletes. Members enjoy exciting networking events throughout the year that provide opportunities to connect with coaches, staff and guest speakers. Members also receive premium gameday hospitality and reserved parking for all home football and men's basketball games. The Bulldog Club is a great way to get involved with Samford University.

For more information, go to samfordsports.com/bulldogclub.



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- 11 Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute
- 18 Trends in Commercial Real Estate Law

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- 1 Employment Law Update
- 9 Class Actions and Business Litigation
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The above seminars are also available as live webcasts. Live webcasts count as live CLE credit.



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SAVE THE DATE

FOR FUTURE ALUMNI EVENTS

Join Henry C. Strickland III and Cumberland School of Law alumni, faculty and staff for our annual Birmingham alumni luncheon.

January 20, 2017

Samford University, Cooney Hall, 4th Floor

Doors open at 11:30 a.m., Lunch served at 12 p.m., Adjourn at 1 p.m.

Registration TBA • Questions: Email Anne at amarovic@samford.edu or call Laura at 205-726-2444

Cumberland School of Law invites you to Alumni Reunion Weekend 2017.

Friday, April 7

All Alumni Cocktail Reception at the Florentine (2nd Avenue North and 21 Street)

Saturday, April 8

Open House at the Law School

Honoring classes of: 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012

Details and registration information will be mailed in January.