

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY / FALL 2018 / ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CUMBERLAND LAWYER





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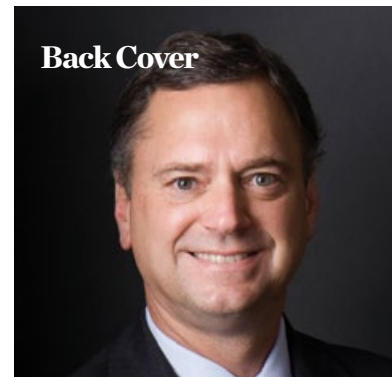
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Pictured on the left:
New students take a photo break
during the annual orientation week
service day.

Cover photograph:
Lindsey J. Allison '84 is the 2018
Distinguished Alumna of the Year.

We hope you find this publication informative. If there are stories and topics you would like to see in future issues, please let us know. This is your publication, and we need your feedback. We welcome your feedback at cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu.

FROM THE DEAN



The arrival of a new class always starts the fall semester with a burst of energy, and this fall is no different. Cumberland's Class of 2021 is on campus and hard at work with their first semester of law school. It is a strong class of 145 students who hail from 17 states and 59 undergraduate institutions. The law school also welcomed 30 students to its new online Master of Studies in Law and Master of Laws programs. The energy of the new class coupled with the work and contributions of our faculty, staff and alumni have created great momentum as we begin the new academic year.

Cumberland began 2018 with two new endowed chairs. Governor Albert P. Brewer, who gave so much to the state of Alabama and to Cumberland during his life, established the Albert P. Brewer Chair of Ethics and Professionalism through gifts during his life and a bequest in his estate. Professor William G. Ross was installed last semester as the first holder of the Brewer chair. Earlier this year, the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation made a major gift to Cumberland to create the Stephen Everett Wells Chair in Municipal Law, and professor Michael E. DeBow was named the inaugural Wells Professor of Municipal Law this spring.

Bolstered by the success of last year's advocacy teams and the

inaugural advocacy benefit, Cumberland's Center for Advocacy Education is energetically building on its storied legacy to create an even stronger future. Tapping into funds generated by the advocacy benefit, we are installing hardware and software to enable seamless iPad trial presentations in all courtrooms and working to add litigation courses on depositions and jury selection. Judge James Roberts '94, who has coached our trial teams with phenomenal success since 1998, recently agreed to serve as head trial team coach, coordinating the selection and preparation of various trial teams. Sara Williams '06, an adjunct professor in trial advocacy, mock trial coach and a member of the Dean's Advisory Board—will receive this year the Edward D. Ohlbaum Award from Stetson University which recognizes trial team coaches who exemplify commitment to practicing law with a high degree of professionalism, integrity and competence. The national trial team has been selected for the coming year, and selection of other national teams will soon be completed, as we prepare for another championship year.

On another front, two law firms led by Cumberland alumni have made generous gifts and pledges to name and renovate two of the

The arrival of a new class always starts the fall semester with a *burst of energy*, and this fall is no different.

law school's classrooms. We are working with university officials and architects to finalize drawings and plans for that work. We will announce the rooms' names and provide details about the projects in the next few months. Work on the renovation will begin later this academic year.

With the continued support of Cumberland alumni and friends, we will build on these developments to achieve the important goals Cumberland set as part of the *Forever Samford* campaign. Building on the momentum of the first leadership gifts to renovate classrooms, we will work to secure funds to name and renovate all of the law school's classrooms to enhance our students' educational experience and aid recruiting. Building on the energy of the advocacy benefit, we will seek to procure funding to create dedicated space for the advocacy program and endowed funds to strengthen its work, thereby assuring its place as the premier law school advocacy program in the country. Building on the generosity of Governor Brewer, Bishop Society members, and others who have funded student scholarships, we will work to secure major new endowed scholarship funding, which is essential in recruiting and retaining the best and brightest students.

Finally, Cumberland began a strategic planning process over the summer, which will be completed this semester. We engaged the Clarus Group to assist in the process, and they have already conducted interviews with select alumni and other constituents of the law school. Following compilation of additional input and data, Clarus will facilitate a retreat in the coming months through which we will set strategic priorities and goals and devise a plan to achieve them. I am excited about this process and look forward to both receiving your input and sharing with you the resulting plan as we partner together to write the next chapter in the history of Cumberland.



Henry C. (Corky) Strickland III



FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

In August 2020, a century after the ratification of the 19th amendment to the United States Constitution, various organizations throughout the country will hold a Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage. Local efforts, initiated by the Alabama State Bar Women's Section, will focus on three components: education, celebration and anticipation of the future. Members of Cumberland School of Law's student organization, Women in Law, will represent the law school by participating to reach these goals. These students are conducting preliminary research and digging deep into the archives of Samford University's Davis Library, searching for personal stories of women in the early 1900s who advocated for the privilege, and their right, to vote. Depending on what the students find, their research may be part of an exhibit that is being considered by executives at a local museum.

Major Harwell Goodwin Davis was president of Samford (then Howard) University from 1939 to 1958. His daughter, alumna Elizabeth D. Eshelman, a 1944 Howard/Samford graduate and a Cumberland graduate in 1964, designated an estate gift to fund an endowed faculty chair for the teaching of constitutional law before she died. After Eshelman passed away in 2007, Cumberland professor David Smolin was the inaugural recipient of this chair. I am certain Eshelman would be very pleased about Cumberland's students, the Women in Law organization, and their representation of her alma mater in this nationwide effort to educate younger generations and celebrate women's suffrage.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne".

Anne Marovich
Director of Office of Alumni Relations

Have you moved? Changed jobs or addresses? Received an award or honor?

Cumberland Connections is our digital alumni newsletter published five times per year and the *Cumberland Lawyer* magazine is mailed bi-annually.

Send us news about your new role or award, a marriage, or birth announcement to publish in Class Notes, and submit updated contact information.

Go to
samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info
or email amarovic@samford.edu.

*Stay connected to your classmates and
the Cumberland School of Law alumni network!
We can help you to do so.*



SAVE

the

DATE

Cumberland School of Law's

2019 Alumni Reunion

Thursday, April 4, 2019 ▪ 6:30–9 p.m.

All alumni are invited.

The Historic Kress Building Rooftop And Patio
301 19th Street North ▪ Birmingham, Alabama

Discounted hotel room blocks in Birmingham have been requested.

Details will be published in the official invitation and on our website soon.

Venue secured and sponsored by Frances Ross Nolan '05, Nolan Byers PC.

Attention Cumberland Alumni!

Organize your class reunion party:

1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014

Let us know the details (when/where/hosts) and we can provide a class list and assist with communication.

Email Anne Marovich at amarovic@samford.edu for more information.



Future Cumberland Alumni JOIN THE RANKS!

Dear Alumni,

Cumberland School of Law welcomed 145 intelligent, engaging and motivated new 1Ls on August 13. During the first day of orientation, the Class of 2021 received advice and an introduction to the Alabama State Bar from Phillip McCallum, met with their 1L professors, and heard from various offices within Cumberland. Each day included a host of activities to ensure each student's success and aid in the establishment of lifelong friendships. On the third and final day, 97% of the incoming class volunteered his or her time to one of six local service projects. If this gesture of selflessness is any indication of what the future holds for this class, we can be confident in their ability to carry on the Cumberland commitment to public service.

The Class of 2021 represents 17 states, 59 undergraduate colleges and universities and 34 college majors. The median age is 24, and the group is 54% male and 46% female. They have played collegiate sports, earned master's degrees, served in the military, lived abroad, served their communities, and, in three years, will be alumni of Cumberland School of Law. Please welcome this class to the Cumberland community by mentoring, coaching or supervising them in your office. As always, I encourage you to continue being our top source of referrals. Our alumni are our best ambassadors, so thank you for your help recruiting the Class of 2021!

Warmest regards,

Whitney Dachelet, J.D.
Director of Admission

Cumberland's Employment Rate Reaches

New High

Cumberland's overall employment rate for the Class of 2017 is the highest rate since the American Bar Association (ABA) started tracking employment data in 2010 with 87.8% of all graduates employed ten months out of law school. The rate is 4.58% higher than the previous high from the Class of 2011.

The record setting 87.8% rate is based on the employment formula set by the ABA. The ABA considers any graduates pursuing a full-time degree such as an LL.M. as unemployed. Additionally, even if members of the Class of 2017 are employed but were not employed before March 15, 2018, they are considered unemployed by the ABA. Cumberland's Class of 2017 had a high number of students pursuing LL.M.s (seven) and two graduates who found employment after March 15. If Cumberland's ABA employment rate is recalculated to determine the employment rate of members of the Class of 2017 eligible for employment by excluding LL.M. students and including those graduates formally employed, the rate jumps to a 93.89%.

Nationally, the overall employment rate for all law school graduates in the Class of 2017 moved up one full percentage point to 88.6% of graduates whom employment status was known. The national increase in entry-level legal employment is a positive direction but can be directly attributed to the decrease of more than 2,200 law school graduates in the employment pool. The number of legal jobs found by all law school graduates in the Class of 2017 dropped by more than 1,200 from the previous year. The smaller size of the Class of 2017 allowed the national employment rate to increase even as the number of legal jobs decreased.

Employment rates can be good indicators of the health of a legal market or law school but they can also be difficult to interpret.

The overall employment rate includes any kind of employment whether the graduate is employed in a legal/non-legal, full-time/part-time or long-term/short-term position. The strictest way of considering "quality" employment could be to measure only the full-time, long-term, bar required employed positions. By this formula, Cumberland has a 62.31% employment rate which is still the highest rate using this formula since the Class of 2011. The employment rate jumps to 68.11% when full-time, long-term, J.D. advantage jobs are included.

The Class of 2017 also had a record employment rate "at graduation" of 44.20% which comparatively would put Cumberland in the top half of law schools based on last year's data. The Class of 2017 improved their bar passage required salary by a total of \$8,513 and private practice average salary increased to \$72,800. At-graduation employment, as well as other employment statistics, are important metrics in *U.S. News & World Report* and other law school rankings.

There are bright spots in national and employment trends primarily because of the decrease in law school graduates. Cumberland's recent employment records were preceded by three years of improvements in key employment metrics. Despite only marginal improvements to the overall legal job market, Cumberland's employment improvements are directly connected to the resilience and hard work of our graduates and the commitment of our alumni to hire and mentor students.

G. Allen Howell, J.D., M.S.Ed.

Assistant Dean of External Relations and Career Development
Cumberland School of Law

87.8%
Employment Rate
Class of 2017

\$72,800
Private Practice Average Salary

MAY 2018 *Commencement*



Cumberland School of Law held its spring 2018 commencement ceremony May 11 in the Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center following a reception on Brewer Plaza. Cumberland distributed 121 Juris Doctor degrees at the event, 11 of which received a dual degree.

Samford University President Andrew Westmoreland provided the welcome. "We welcome the members of the Class of 2018 into a wonderful legacy that is Cumberland School of Law," he said. "We know that when this ceremony ends, a new covenant will exist between you and Samford. This will always be your law school alma mater."

Dean Henry C. Strickland III presented the Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award to Alexander "Alex" G. Thrasher. This award was endowed by Governor Albert P. Brewer in honor of his father. Each year, the award is granted to a third-year student who best exemplifies the high standards of ethics and professionalism expected of members of the legal profession.

United States magistrate judge and former Cumberland professor Herman N. Johnson Jr. provided the commencement address. Johnson advised the graduates to bear in mind three attitudes in life: be open, be accountable and be vulnerable. He expanded on these points by providing examples from his time in the Peace Corps as well as examples from other prestigious Cumberland alumni.

Dean Strickland once again addressed the graduates, "You will always be a part of our Cumberland family." He then recognized classmate Drew Bentley, who was set to graduate with the class but died last year. During the ceremony, many members of the class wore purple lapel ribbons in memory of Bentley. The ribbons represented the students' support of the Matthew McLain Peer Scholarship in remembrance of Bentley.

Juris Doctor graduate and senior class president Benjamin Keen provided farewell remarks. He reflected on the group's three years in law school and offered encouragement to the graduates while also making a nod to Bentley in his remarks.

"Today may be the last time we meet as a collective group, but it will not be the last time we encounter one another in the practice of law. As our predecessors have evidenced, our opportunity is now immeasurable, yet this opportunity mandates an unwavering duty to loyalty and a constant devotion to truth. To abide will allow us to overcome every discouragement and will surely lead the way of usefulness and high achievement. Class of 2018, congratulations, and may God bless your future endeavors."



**Benjamin Keen '18 with his father,
Randall Keen '87**



**Sara Leopold '18 with her father,
Theodore (Ted) Leopold '87**



**Sidney Jackson '18 with his father, Sidney
Jackson III '82, and his stepfather, Dan
Dumont '75**



**Xan Ingram '18 with her father,
Jeffrey Ingram '92**



**William (Trey) Prosch III '18
with his father, William
Prosch Jr. '70**



**Katie Hilyer '18 with her mother, Elizabeth
Hilyer Ginsberg '88, and her brother and
current Cumberland student, James Hilyer**

Legacies



2018 Distinguished Alumna

Lindsey J. Allison '84

This award is given to a Cumberland School of law graduate who has distinguished herself/himself in the practice of law, service to the community and leadership in the profession.

Not only is Lindsey J. Allison '84 an excellent family law practitioner, she is an extraordinary public servant. In 2017, Allison was honored with the Tenure in Office Award by the Association of County Commissions of Alabama for her 24 years of service to county government and the state of Alabama. As a Shelby County commissioner, among other things, she led Shelby County out of financial crisis in 1994, founded the Shelby County Indigent Defense Council, and established various systems through years of growth to manage a wide spectrum of local government responsibilities. She served as chair of the county commission for seven years and has been chair of the finance division for 12 years. Currently, she is serving her 26th year and seventh term on the county commission.

In addition to being a leader of the county commission, Allison is head of local legislation for the Association of Commissions of Alabama and president-elect (and board member) of Shelby

County Leadership. Furthermore, she is actively involved with other local organizations such as Brookwood Baptist Health Systems (board member and on the Quality Control Committee), The ARC of Shelby County, Inc., Shelby County School System Foundation, Community Correction of Shelby County, Chilton/Shelby Mental Health, and previously served Asbury United Methodist Church on the staff/parish committee.

In 2007, Allison, along with her husband, Russ, also from the Class of 1984, initiated the Russell Q. and Lindsey J. Allison Scholarship to assist a law student in financial need who has meaningfully participated during law school and in his/her community.

The couple has two daughters, Leigh and Kelsey. They are members of Asbury United Methodist Church and live in Indian Springs, Alabama.

"Now my responsibility is to help bring up the next generation of leaders. I want to be a motivator, a coach, a resource and an encourager for those taking on positions of responsibility in our communities."

2018 Young Alumnus

STEPHEN DENNIS RYGIEL '09



This award is given to a Cumberland School of Law graduate who received his or her J.D. within the past 15 years and who has distinguished herself or himself in the practice of law, service to the community, and leadership in the profession.

While in law school, Stephen Dennis Rygiel was an active member of the student community service organization and his public service developed into a career after graduation. Since 2010,

Rygiel has served as the director of the Aiding Alabama Legal Program at Birmingham Aids Outreach (BAO), providing pro bono representation to Alabamians impacted by HIV/AIDS, LGBTQ issues and poverty.

Through Rygiel's involvement and leadership, the BAO legal program is deemed a model program in Alabama and across the United States. His law office functions as a general practice working with the entire BAO professional team to support and provide counsel to thousands of Alabamians in critical need. Rygiel also writes grants and provides legal education seminars on HIV-related legal issues, LGBTQ rights, law and technology, and policy matters. He currently sits on the board of directors for Alabama Appleseed and is a member of the diversity and inclusivity committee of the Birmingham Bar Association. Rygiel's wife, Anne, serves as director of the Firehouse Shelter, and the couple has one high school-aged son and four pets.

2018 Friend of Cumberland School of Law

TERRY MCCARTHY



This award recognizes a person, who though not a graduate of Cumberland School of Law, has contributed time and resources to enhance the quality of the law school and the educational experience of the students.

Outside of his diverse trial and appellate practice as a partner of Lightfoot Franklin & White LLC, Terry McCarthy has served as an

adjunct instructor of Evidence and Advanced Evidence at the law school since spring 2012. In 2016, graduating students chose him to be the commencement speaker. Later, he received the Cumberland School of Law's Outstanding Adjunct Professor Award for the 2017-18 academic year.

McCarthy's passion for education is evident. Prior to attending law school, he worked as a university administrator, obtaining master's and doctoral degrees of education. McCarthy is a co-author, along with Dean Charles Gamble and Cumberland Professor Emeritus Bob Goodwin, of *Gamble's Alabama Rules of Evidence* and *McElroy's Alabama Evidence*. These are the two leading treatises on Alabama evidence. In addition, he stays active in various charitable organizations, including Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, the Greater Birmingham Humane Society, and Adopt-a-Golden Birmingham. He is a proud supporter of Cumberland's advocacy program and the Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute—funds from which provide a full scholarship to a law student with a history of and commitment to public service.



Khaula Hadeed '14

Alumna Khaula Hadeed serves as executive director and was a founding member of the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) chapter of Alabama. Read how her work is effecting positive change in Alabama and how her legal education from Cumberland School of Law has aided her in her efforts.

Describe your interest and why you felt led to start CAIR Alabama.

I came to Alabama in 2004, bright-eyed and full of hopes and aspirations. During my educational career, it became apparent that there was a lack of understanding about my faith and its followers. I became more aware of issues that my friends, and those in my faith community, were dealing with from micro-aggression to full-fledged discrimination in their daily lives because of the way they prayed or the way they dressed. It began to take a toll on me and I felt I needed to at least try to raise awareness and speak in my own voice about unfairness and injustice directed toward the most vulnerable members of my community. I recall during my undergraduate years, a friend came to me and told me about repeated instances of harassment because she wore a religious head covering. Her experience made me feel helpless, but I was determined to find a way to effect change. Needless to say, a lack of understanding and knowledge about Islam and Muslims didn't help matters much since there were, and still are, ample false notions to induce fear of the "other." I felt it was important to find a way to build bridges and work toward increasing understanding!

What are your goals and plans for CAIR?

My primary goal has always been to do principled work that speaks to our core values of human dignity, respect and understanding. Another goal has been to see tangible change in perceptions of and attitudes about Islam and Muslims in Alabama. What do I mean when I say change in attitudes? For example, people holding individuals running for public office accountable when they espouse prejudice against an entire faith community, even if it be directed towards Muslims. My ultimate goal, rather, hope, is to not only see most Alabamans hold a positive view of Islam and Muslims, but to view it, and us, as American as apple pie.

What change have you already affected in the community?

I can say we have seen peoples' perception change with every effort we make to confront prejudice. We challenge people's strongly held beliefs about our faith, and indeed myself, as a practitioner of the faith. I believe my work has directly given people the opportunity to learn about Islam and Muslims by increasing awareness. What's most encouraging is to see young Muslims take pride in their identities because of our work in standing up for the rights of all people.

Has this work changed your perspective to any extent?

Yes, absolutely! I always thought change in attitudes was possible, but now I believe it. My work has shown me that effort, sincerity, openness and belief can change peoples' hearts and minds.

How has your legal education from Cumberland aided in your efforts?

If someone had asked me at 17 living in Quetta, Pakistan, that a decade later I will be entering Cumberland School of Law in the Class of 2014 in Birmingham, Alabama, I would have looked at them in disbelief. At the time I didn't even know what a Juris Doctor was or meant. Today years later, I feel like it was a decision that enabled me to take up the cause for equality and fairness.

I always had a passion for social justice issues but being educated at Cumberland School of Law gave me the tools, the skills and the power to do something about it. My Cumberland education empowered me to understand sometimes very complex legal situations that could have only come with rigorous legal training. Oh, on a lighter note, and my husband will vouch for this, the last time he came even close to winning an argument with me was before my law school days and I really love that.

Subsequent to this feature being developed, a new executive director of CAIR was appointed. Khaula Hadeed is relocating with her family and we are certain she will further her good work in her new community. Faculty and staff at Cumberland School of Law offer our best wishes to her during her transition to a new role.

In Memoriam: Judge Helen Shores Lee '87



Cumberland alumna and retired judge Helen Shores Lee passed away on Monday, July 2 at age 77. The daughter of famed civil rights attorney Arthur Shores, who defended Martin Luther King Jr. during the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Lee was determined to study the law to join her father in his occupation. Prior to entering law school, Lee worked as a clinical psychologist. Following her graduation from Cumberland in 1987, she began practicing law with her father.

Lee was the first African-American woman to serve on the Jefferson County Circuit Court. She was appointed as a circuit judge for the 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama in 2003 by former Governor Don Siegelman and then elected to her first full term in 2004. She retired from her post in 2017.

In 2013, Lee was honored by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Central Alabama for her decades of commitment to civil rights and community service. In 2014, she was named Samford University's Alumna of the Year. And, in 2018, she was honored by Samford as an inaugural recipient of the

Audrey Howard Gaston Award commemorating the 50th anniversary of integration on campus.

"Judge Lee was a cherished alumna of Cumberland School of Law and a giant in the Birmingham community," said Dean Henry C. Strickland. "She grew up during some of the darkest days of the civil rights movement and experienced firsthand the violence of those who opposed equal rights. She persevered and worked peacefully with her father and others to make Birmingham and the country better and more just. The world is a better place because of Judge Lee. May we honor her by continuing her work," Strickland added. Lee is the former director of Clinical Outreach Services for the Jefferson County Department of Health. She served on the Alabama State Ethics Commission from 1996-2000 and was the organization's chairwoman from 1999-2000.

Lee and her sister are co-authors of *The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill*, a book about growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, with their father, Author Shores.

Thank you to our Summer 2018 Alumni Event Sponsors

Florida Bar Convention Orlando, Florida June 14

Herman Russomanno '75
Russomanno & Borello PA

Jacob Brown '98
Akerman LLP

Lorence J. Bielby '83 and Peggy Bielby '84

Mary Ann Etzler '95
Etzler Law PA

Gregory Snell '84
Snell Legal PLLC

Deborah Moskowitz '97
Quintairos Prieto Wood & Boyer PA

North Carolina Bar Association Annual Meeting Wilmington, North Carolina June 22

Charles Ingram '78 and Carolyn Ingram
Ingram & Ingram

Jim Morgan '69
Morgan Herring Morgan Green & Rosenblutt
LLP

C. Gray Johnsey '78, John C. Archie '78,
Joseph S. Bower '79
and W. Lee Percise III '08
White & Allen

Steve Smalley '95
Ogletree Deakins

Bob V. Lucas '78
Lucas Denning & Ellerbe PA

Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting Sandestin, Florida June 28

Jana Russell Garner '97
JRG Law Offices

Mark A. Jackson '90

Alecia Haynes '87 and Kenny Haynes '91
Haynes & Haynes PC

Martha Reeves Cook '96

Cumberland Faculty Appointed to Endowed Professorships

Samford University's board of trustees approved new academic faculty chairs at their regular spring meeting on May 1. Two members of Cumberland School of Law's faculty were appointed to endowed chairs beginning with the 2018-19 academic year. Associate dean Brannon P. Denning was named the Starnes Professor of Law and Deborah Young was named the Judge J. Russell McElroy Professor of Law.

A native of Owensboro, Kentucky, Denning earned his undergraduate degree from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and his law degree from the University of Tennessee School of Law. Following law school, he spent two years in the health law group at Baker Donelson Bearman and Caldwell PC in Memphis before taking a position as a research associate and senior fellow at Yale Law School in 1997. It was there where he earned his LL.M. in 1999. From 1999-2003, he taught at Southern Illinois University School of Law before joining the Cumberland faculty. During the summers, he regularly teaches constitutional law at the University of Tennessee College of Law and in Cumberland's study abroad program at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University. He joined the Cumberland faculty in 2003 and was named associate dean for academic affairs in 2014. Denning's teaching and research interests include constitutional law and the United States Supreme Court.

William Stancil Starnes '72 established the Starnes Chair in Law in 2011 in honor of his father, Stancil R. Starnes, and in recognition of both of their legal careers.

"I am honored and humbled to have been selected as the second Starnes Professor of Law," Denning said. "I am equally delighted to succeed my friend and former colleague, Woody Hartzog, who was the inaugural holder of the chair. I thank the Starnes family for their tireless support of Cumberland School of Law and for their generosity in endowing this chair."

The J. Russell McElroy Professorship was established in 2007 by friends and colleagues of the late judge to honor a tenured faculty teaching in the area of evidence.



Young received her Bachelor of Arts in political science and Spanish from the University of Kentucky followed by her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. She served as a clerk for Judge Thomas A. Clark in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit from 1982 until 1983. From 1983-1990, Young was an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia where she worked in the Transnational and Major Crimes Section, prosecuting criminal cases of espionage, bribery, fraud, conspiracy, money laundering and narcotics violations. She was a professor at Emory University School of Law from 1990-97 when she joined the Cumberland faculty and was a Fulbright Professor at Xiamen University in Xiamen, China, in 2007. Young's teaching and research interests include criminal procedure, evidence and trial advocacy. "I am indeed honored to be the Judge J. Russell McElroy Professor of Law," said Young. "I share Judge McElroy's enthusiasm for the law of evidence, having taught it more than 30 semesters. I love inspiring students to excel in evidence as they continue Cumberland's trial advocacy legacy."

Plans for investiture ceremonies to formally install the new academic chairs will be announced later this fall.

Cumberland Faculty

Head off to Retirement

Over the years, Cumberland School of Law has been fortunate to have had faculty members that have dedicated their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to educating future lawyers. We wish two of those faculty members, Mike Floyd and Bob Greene, the best of luck as they now head into retirement.

Mike Floyd joined the Cumberland faculty in 1991 and served as the director of international studies and professor of law focusing on areas such as commercial law, bankruptcy, consumer protection, real property, and aging and the law. He holds economics, business and law degrees from Princeton University (1975), New York University (1977) and Emory University (1987). Prior to attending law school, Floyd worked in commercial banking and public accounting as a licensed certified public accountant in the state of New York. After receiving his law degree and becoming a member of the State Bar of Georgia, Floyd practiced with the Atlanta, Georgia, law firm of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan and a held a judicial clerkship for the Hon. James C. Hill, Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Floyd said, "The primary joy of my years at Samford has been the privilege of exploring ideas that interest me and sharing those



explorations with students, colleagues and other friends. A central ingredient of that has been friendships, and I hope my good friends will stay in touch."

Bob Greene taught at Cumberland for 12 years in the areas of environmental law and real property. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1966 and earned his law degree from Catholic University in 1970. He was the deputy regional counsel for the Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, Georgia, practiced with Bradley Arant Boult Cummings and taught law at Emory University and the University of Alabama School of Law prior to coming to Cumberland. He spoke and wrote frequently on issues regarding environmental law.

"Having practiced environmental law from all angles in both the governmental and private sector, Bob was able to provide his students with well-rounded perspectives on complex environmental issues," said LL.R. instructor Andrea Shaw. "Bob's mentoring heart perfectly captured the Cumberland spirit—he always stood ready with a new challenge, fresh idea or encouraging word for his students and colleagues."

Judge John L. Carroll '74 Receives American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for 11th Circuit

Cumberland School of Law professor and former dean John L. Carroll received the prestigious 2018 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the 11th Circuit. He was presented with the award by the Honorable Joel Dubina '73 at the 11th Circuit Annual Judicial Conference in Florida in early May.

Headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, the American Inns of Court fosters excellence in professionalism, ethics, civility and legal skills.

"I am very grateful for this honor and humbled by it," Carroll said. "The recognition is even more meaningful to me because two people I very much admire, Judge Joel Dubina and Gov. Albert Brewer, are previous recipients of this award."

Dean Henry C. Strickland added, "Professionalism, ethical conduct and service have always been core values of Cumberland School of Law, and no one embodies those values more fully than Judge Carroll. Having worked closely with him for the last 17 years and having talked to lawyers across the state, I know he lives those values every day. The American Inns of Court Professionalism Award is a high honor, and Judge Carroll is a richly deserving recipient."



Cumberland School of Law

Names National Trial Team Head Coach



Samford University's Cumberland School of Law is known for success in trial advocacy preparation. To continue this legacy, the school has officially named Judge Jim Roberts '94 head coach of Cumberland's National Trial Team.

Roberts, a circuit court judge for Tuscaloosa's 6th Judicial Circuit, began coaching national trial teams at Cumberland during the 1998 academic year and has led the teams to numerous national and regional accomplishments. Throughout his involvement, Cumberland's teams have twice won the National Civil Trial Competition (NCTC) National Championship (2013 and 2017), the Lone Star Invitational National Championship in 2007 and fifteen National Trial Competition (NTC) Regional Championships. Several of those teams have placed in the top eight nationally. Teams training under Roberts' leadership have won eight NTC regional championships in the past ten years, sweeping the regionals, sending two teams to nationals three times in those ten years.

Many Cumberland advocates coached by Roberts have won individual honors such as Best Advocate, Best Opening Statement and Best Cross Examination. Additionally, teams trained by Roberts have been recognized for their ethical standards by twice winning Professionalism Awards at NCTC.

"The students are the reason for our success," Roberts said. "I just help them realize what they can become."

Recently, Roberts developed a summer Trial Skills Boot Camp for all trial team members taught by Roberts and other trial team

assistant coaches. This training resulted in the trial team earning the number two position in the 2017-18 Trial Competition Performance Rankings composed by Fordham University School of Law.

"That ranking would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our talented students and assistant coaches," Roberts added.

Roberts also serves as a member of a three-person board of directors for the National Board of Trial Advocacy Tournament of Champions, one of the premier invitational national trial competitions in the country, which invites only the top 16 law schools based on a three-year performance record in NTC and the AAJ National Student Trial Advocacy competition.

Dean Henry C. Strickland commented, "Appointing Judge Roberts as head coach of the National Trial Team is a major step in moving the school's advocacy program forward and securing its national stature for the future. Judge Roberts was an outstanding trial lawyer before going on the bench, has proven to be a phenomenal coach and mentor to Cumberland's trial teams over the past 20 years, and has a superb reputation among trial advocacy educators around the country. This new role will enable him to expand his impact by training and mentoring other trial team coaches and organizing the national teams for maximum success. Judge Roberts embodies the Cumberland tradition of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and excellence."

A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY ACTIVITIES



Ramona C. Albin

In May, assistant professor Ramona Albin presented at a panel entitled “Developing Teaching Methods to Discover the Story of Your Case” at the Educating Advocates: Teaching Advocacy Skills conference at Stetson University College of Law. She also moderated a panel entitled “Developing and Teaching Advocacy Courses.” Albin also spoke at the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section Southeastern White-Collar Crime Institute in September.



John L. Carroll '74

Judge John L. Carroll attended the Annual Meeting of the Uniform Law Commission from July 22-25. He is a member of a drafting committee which is seeking approval of an act which would make it easier to enforce Canadian money judgments in the United States. The act had a first reading at this annual meeting and will be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting in 2019. On August 1, Carroll spoke to the Alabama Bank Counsel Conference. His topic was “Ethical Minefields—E-discovery and Other Uses of Technology.”



J. Mark Baggett

Associate professor of English and law Mark Baggett presented a paper entitled “Mark Twain’s Legal Burlesques and Democratization of American Legalese” at the American Literature Association annual conference in San Francisco in May. He was also invited to present the “Trouble Begins” lecture at Quarry Farm in Elmira, New York, on May 15, 2019. Quarry Farm, Mark Twain’s summer home where he wrote Huckleberry Finn and other works, is the location of Baggett’s Mark Twain studies.



Brannon P. Denning

Associate dean and Starnes Professor of Law Brannon Denning served as a visiting professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law in Knoxville, Tennessee, during the summer. On June 20, Denning served as a panelist at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Liquor Administrators in Kona, Hawaii. The discussion was titled “Regulators Prepared for ‘Challenge’ Management—A Review of Three Cases Challenging This Industry’s Regulatory Structure.” On July 26, Denning served as a panelist at the Annual Meeting of the Baton Rouge Bench and Bar in Point Clear, Alabama. The discussion was titled “Rights under Fire: Firearms and Regulation under the United States and Louisiana Constitutions.” On August 2, he served as a panelist on the topic “A Second Look: Reassessing the Right to Bear Arms,” for the Federalist Society Chattanooga Lawyers Chapter in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



T. Brad Bishop '71

On Friday, Aug. 10, Professor T. Brad Bishop was a cochair for a section of the Semi-annual State Seminar for Municipal Court Judges, Prosecutors, Court Clerks and Magistrates. The topic was “Alabama’s Driver License Suspension Laws; Is there Ethical Reason for a Change?” Bishop’s cochair was Lisa Borden, a shareholder at Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz PC.

On Aug. 20, Professor Brad Bishop was a guest on the Knowledge@Wharton Network, The Wharton School’s online business analysis journal and radio show. The discussion focused on what retailers are doing to recover losses from alleged shoplifters and what this means for those accused of shoplifting.



Wendy Greene

This summer, professor Wendy Greene completed her residency at the University of California-Irvine School of Law where she served as an inaugural visiting scholar for the law school's Center on Law, Equality and Race (CLEaR) during the spring semester. Greene's book project, *#FreeTheHair: Locking Black Hair to Civil Rights Movements*, is currently under review with the University of California-Berkeley Press.

In May, she was interviewed by the African-American Attorney Network, wherein she discussed the legality of natural hairstyle bans and other grooming regulations in the workplace. Greene's article, "Pretext Without Context", 75 MO. L. REV. 403 (2010), was quoted in a writ of certiorari filed with the United States Supreme Court in an employment discrimination case: *McDaniel v. Perdue*. In June, with co-authors, professor Trina Jones (Duke University) and professor Jessica Roberts (University of Houston), Greene presented a paper, "Who Are We in the Workplace?: Using Title VII and GINA to Combat DNA-Based Race Discrimination", at Washington and Lee University School of Law.

In July, Greene attended the 12th Annual Lutie Lytle Black Women Law Faculty Writing Workshop, for which she serves as a member of the Planning Committee.

In August, during the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) annual conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Greene served on a panel titled "The Kennedy Retirement: A Retrospective and Gaze at the Future."



Paul Kuruk

On April 25, Professor Paul Kuruk presented a paper titled "The Development of an Intellectual Property Action Plan on Protecting and Benefitting from Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expressions in Ghana" at a national stakeholder's forum in Accra, Ghana.

From June 25 to June 29, Kuruk participated in the 36th Session of WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore in Geneva, Switzerland. As the facilitator of the IGC, Kuruk revised the negotiating texts of the international conference to reflect the emerging consensus on key points. He also chaired the Contact Group on Sanctions and Remedies which endorsed the use of revocation of patents as a sanction for failure to comply with the

disclosure requirement regarding source of traditional knowledge, thereby breaking a longstanding deadlock in the international negotiations.

On July 12, Kuruk chaired a Technical Committee of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to review the ECOWAS Investment Policy and Code, Abuja, Nigeria. On Aug. 8, Kuruk presented a paper titled "The Legal Implications of the Provisions of the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre Act Governing the Participation of Non-Ghanaians in the Domestic Retail Sector" at a meeting of government officials, business executives, academic community and civil society in Accra, Ghana.



Tracey M. Roberts

Assistant professor Tracey Roberts presented "How Extensive Are Fossil Fuel Stranded Assets in the United States?" on May 27 at the 10th Annual Meeting of the Society for Environmental Law and Economics at the Chicago campus of the University of Notre Dame Law School. From July 23-27, Roberts participated in the Empirical Methods workshop hosted by George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School Law and Economics Center in Arlington, Virginia. She also participated in a panel discussion titled "Driving the Industry—How Corporate Procurement Will Drive the Solar Industry in Alabama" at the 2018 Alabama Solar Industry Association Annual Conference on Aug. 23 at the Grand Bohemian Hotel in Mountain Brook, Alabama. Roberts presented two of her papers, "Climate Change Regulation, Efficiency, and the World Trade Organization" and "Stranded Assets and Competitive Pricing for Regulated Public Utilities: A Federal Tax Solution" at the 18th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Law & Economics Association (MLEA), hosted by the Cross Disciplinary Legal Studies Program at the University of Alabama School of Law on Sept. 14 and 15.



Andrea L. Shaw '10

In the spring, L.L.R. instructor Andrea L. Shaw published an article in the *Texas Environmental Law Journal*, the official publication of the Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section of the State Bar of Texas. Shaw's article entitled "Environmental Consultant Risk a Decade After All Appropriate Inquiry" can be found at 48-1 Tex. Env. L. J. 29-62 (Spring 2018).



Hattie Blackburn

Second-year law student

Hattie Blackburn is a second-year law student at Cumberland School of Law. During her undergraduate years, she studied political science and international studies at The University of Alabama.

Growing up in a large family, her parents taught her servant-leadership by way of example. She quickly learned that solidarity and peace come when you identify and meet the needs of those around you. Cumberland's dedication to developing students who lead their communities by way of public service made attending Cumberland an easy choice for her.

During the first half of the 2018 summer, she studied at The University of Western Cape School of Law in Cape Town, South Africa. While there, she clerked at the South African Human Rights Commission, the national institution established to support constitutional democracy and committed to promoting respect for and observance and protection of human rights for everyone without fear or favor.

While working at the commission, Blackburn met with members of the South African Parliament to discuss the issue of land reform and drafted possible amendments to the South African constitution that would allow for the expropriation of land without compensation. She worked directly with the commission of gender equality to ensure that women were not left out of the land reform

debate and receive a fair share of land as well.

Blackburn said, "Land reform is a necessity for South Africa. Many South Africans depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The disproportionate amount of land ownership between the indigenous people and the European settlers has left many of the indigenous impoverished. Currently, indigenous South Africans are growing more frustrated with the slow pace of land reform and it is causing political unrest throughout the country."

She believes in order for the South African country to grow peacefully, the need for land reform must be met. Since her return, the South African president has approved amending the constitution to allow for land expropriation without compensation.

"Democracy requires economic growth and inclusion for all people," she said.

Participating in South Africa's land reform debate was an amazing opportunity. She is grateful for the staff at Cumberland for providing her with the skills needed to be a valuable in her community and for others.



Amanda Lowndes

Third-year law student

Amanda Lowndes is a third-year and first-generation law student. After receiving her degree in social work from Auburn University, Lowndes began law school knowing that she wanted to pursue a career in international children's advocacy. In her second year at Cumberland, she became involved with the Center for Children, Law and Ethics.

During spring 2018, while completing research under the supervision of professor David Smolin, a summer internship opportunity arose with International Social Services (ISS). ISS is an international NGO comprised of a network of national entities and a general secretariat that assists children and families confronted with complex social problems as a result of migration. She accepted the opportunity in Geneva, Switzerland, with the International Reference Center (IRC), a division of the general secretariat of ISS. The focus of her work regarded the rights of children deprived of their families.

Through her experience, Lowndes was able to incorporate her educational background to research and publish documents that will be used by organizations such as UNICEF and other international experts. Lowndes wrote articles for the *Monthly Review*, an ISS/IRC publication that is shared with more than 5,000 subscribers in English, French, Spanish and Russian; contributed to ISS's newly established consent and disclosure form in compliance

with the European General Data Protection Regulation; conducted a detailed country situation on Latvia; completed a legislative analysis of the alternative care laws for Vietnam which will be visited by international children's rights experts and UNICEF later this year; and contributed to the formation of a basic social service training for frontline social workers in Cambodia. She also had the opportunity to meet influential individuals such as Nigel Cantwell, an international consultant on child protection and rights, and members of the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Lowndes remarked, "My time with ISS/IRC enabled me to intertwine my two passions, social work and the law, to produce work that will be useful in a meaningful way. I truly feel that my vocation is in the realm of international children's rights and protections and my experiences this summer with ISS really confirmed that notion."

Currently, Lowndes is working remotely for IRC and plans to pursue a career in international child welfare and advocacy in Geneva upon her graduation from Cumberland next spring.



Victor Kelley '81

Retired marine and owner of the National Military Justice Group, Vic Kelley has served Cumberland School of Law as an adjunct professor since 1990.

As a lawyer, he served as chief defense counsel, senior trial counsel, staff judge advocate and as a military judge. After retirement, Kelley served as assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama and assistant attorney general for the state of Alabama. His practice is now exclusively focused on military and civilian criminal and administrative law, which is also the concentration of his classes at Cumberland.

Is there anything your students would be surprised to know about you?

I'm a pretty transparent guy, so probably not much. I do enjoy playing chess—I play daily and have been a member of several chess clubs over the years.

Will you describe a mistake you made while practicing law?

And what, if anything, did you learn from it?

Too many to count. I try to remind myself that every client's case is the most important case in the world to him or her. By doing so, I think prevents a lot of "mistakes."

Who is one of your professional mentors?

I can think of three. My former law partner and friend, Rear Admiral Jack Natter '73, the very definition of an officer and a gentleman. Professor Frank Donaldson, a 1947 Howard College graduate, my civil procedure professor and former United States attorney. Having just retired from the Marines, and not knowing anyone in the legal community here in Birmingham, Mr. Donaldson, a man of great integrity, took a leap of faith when he hired me as one of his assistant U.S. attorneys. I will always be grateful. And, last but certainly not least, Professor Larry Iannotti. Larry began Cumberland's clinical program in 1990 and I was one of his Basic Skills adjuncts. In my opinion, Larry brought legitimate academic credentials to Cumberland's trial program and the ripple effect shows today.

How do you balance your legal practice and responsibilities with a hobby or family time?

Sometimes, I'm afraid, not very well. I admire those who manage balance in their careers, but, especially for trial lawyers, I sometimes think there is Drano in our veins. Exercise helps, but balance is a work in progress.

Do you have a 5-10-year goal that you'd be willing to share?

Retirement, some travel, and meaningful time with my wife, children and grandchildren.

What are two of your goals in teaching your course?

Meaningful instruction presented in a way that, hopefully, will cause my students to become as interested in the subject as I am.



Elizabeth McIntyre Hill '05

Elizabeth Hill is the associate general counsel for Hibbett Sporting Goods, Inc. headquartered in Birmingham. At Cumberland she has taught Practicing Law In-house during the spring terms of 2015, 2016 and 2017. She aspires to be a general counsel one day.

Is there anything your students would be surprised to know about you?

I have a chemical engineering degree from Auburn University. I didn't decide to go to law school until my last semester at Auburn. I applied to Cumberland on a whim because my sister lived in Birmingham at the time. It was the only school I applied to. I'm so glad it worked out because I met some lifelong friends there and wouldn't be where I am today had I not made that decision.

Will you describe a mistake you've made while practicing law? And what, if anything, did you learn from it?

Overpromising and under-delivering. As a young lawyer in a law firm, you want to impress the partner or client that you're working for, so it's tempting to overextend yourself unnecessarily. For instance, your partner asks you to write a memo on a certain topic and without prompting you say, "Absolutely, I'll have it to you tomorrow!" If you commit to that, you better make sure you can deliver. I've learned to set realistic expectations of myself and my time. If you do that and consistently meet those expectations, people will trust and respect you. Lack of timely communication is also a problem I see in a lot of lawyers. Practicing Walmart's "sundown rule" is a great way to impress your clients and business partners and set yourself up for success.

Who is one of your professional mentors? Is there one thing that you've learned from this mentor that you'd like young lawyers to know?

David Benck, the general counsel at Hibbett Sporting Goods Inc. He is a great example of branding yourself. He's taught me that it's your responsibility—not anyone else's—to continually build your skill set and market yourself.

How do you balance your legal practice and responsibilities with a hobby or family time?

One of the perks of practicing law in-house is work-life balance. I am very fortunate to work at a company that values family and time away from work. Our culture at Hibbett is to work hard and deliver great results while you are here, but when it's time to leave, go home and enjoy your friends and family. You deliver a much better work product if you can unplug while you are away from work.

What are two of your primary goals in teaching your course?

When I was in law school, I wasn't aware of any companies in Birmingham that had in-house legal departments and I certainly didn't know any in-house attorneys, much less what an in-house attorney did every day. At the end of my class, I want my students to have an understanding of what in-house lawyers do on a daily basis and I want to expose them to a number of in-house attorneys in Birmingham and the surrounding communities.

CLASS NOTES

COLLECTED MAY 1-AUGUST 15, 2018

1969

James "Jim" Morgan was the recipient of the 2018 Margaret Bourdeaux Arbuckle Award from the Guilford Education Alliance. Morgan was the founding chairman of the board of directors and remains a tireless advocate for education, a passionate heart for children and community.

1971

Jimmy Rane is campaign chairman of the Pat and Jean Sullivan Head and Neck Cancer Survivorship Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

1973

Justice Michael F. Bolin was awarded the William D. "Bill" Scruggs Jr. Award during the Alabama State Bar Association annual meeting.

1975

David Maguire received the Esther J. Windmueller Award for Professionalism from the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Inn of Court. This award is given to someone who has demonstrated a high level of professionalism, competence, civility and commitment to the inn's principles and programs. Maguire has served as the vice president of this inn for five years.

W. Eason Mitchell was awarded, posthumously, the Jeanne Marie Leslie Service Award by the Alabama State Bar Association during the annual meeting.

1976

Hon. Oliver John Cejka Jr. retired July 1, 2018, from the Frederick County District Court in Frederick, Maryland, after 13 years on the bench.

1978

David Drabkin is the chairman, Section 809 Panel, Arlington, Virginia. The 17-person expert panel, created in section 809 of the FY 2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and amended by section 863(d) of the NDAA for FY 2017, is tasked with finding ways to streamline and improve the defense acquisition process. The panel has two years to develop recommendations for changes in the regulation and associated statute to achieve those ends.

1981

Hon. John Everett Williams was selected by his brethren to be presiding judge for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals.

1982

Sarah "Sally" Clark Bowers was elected as an Alabama State Bar commissioner for the 29th Judicial Circuit.

1983

Scotty Colson is the new coordinator of continuum care at the Jimmie Hale Mission in Birmingham, Alabama.

1984

LaBella Alvis was elected as an Alabama State Bar commissioner for the 10th Judicial Circuit, Place 5. Alvis was also awarded the Commissioner's Award.

1985

Kevin E. Collins is senior vice president and senior wealth advisor at Iberia Wealth Advisors.

S. Leslie Ramsey Barineau was elected to a three-year term on the board of trustees for the Alabama Law Foundation.

1987

Jane O. Shuler was appointed to the South Carolina Bar's Judicial Qualifications Committee.

Joe Joseph is moderating a panel discussion during the American Bankruptcy Institute's 23rd Annual Southeast Bankruptcy Workshop.

1988

Gregory D. Smith was appointed by the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs to the Court of Indian Appeals on July 20, 2018. This federal judgeship couples with the five Tribal Supreme Courts Smith serves on throughout the United States.

1989

William B. Herbert IV is the director of Metro Department of Codes and Building Safety in Nashville, Tennessee.

W. Daniel "Dee" Miles III, head of Beasley Allen's Consumer Fraud section, was appointed colead counsel in the class action litigation involving off-road vehicle manufacturer and distributors Polaris Industries Inc. and Polaris Sales Inc.

1990

Sharon Stuart was named an officer of Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. Stuart is the organization's immediate past president.

1991

Richard Costigan III was re-elected to the California State Personnel Board as its representative to the California Public Employees' Retirement System Board of Administration.

Matthew L. Evans wrote and published a book titled *Who Am I and Where Did I Come From?* The book is a personal story and includes a historical perspective and a guide on genealogical research. The book is available on Amazon. Evans resides in Clearwater, Florida.

1992

Barrett Painter opened a new practice, The Law Office of Barrett Painter PC in Cleveland, Tennessee.

Richard J. Minor won the Republican primary for the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. There will be no Democrat opponent in the November 2018 election.

1993

Thomas J. Skinner IV opened a second law office, Law Office of Thomas J. Skinner IV LLC in Valley Head, Alabama.

1994

Hon. Kelly J. McKibben received the 2017-18 Jurist of the Year Award from the Florida Association of Women Lawyers. McKibben sits in the 18th Judicial Circuit in Brevard County, Florida.

1995

Nanette Solveig Edwards is the executive director of the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mary Ann Etzler received an award from the Orange County Bar Association for Outstanding Executive Council Member from 2010-18 in Orlando, Florida.

R. Sean McEvoy is a partner of Fried Rogers Goldberg LLC in Atlanta, Georgia.

1996

Deana Hood was selected by the Spring Hill, Tennessee, board of mayor and aldermen to be the city's new municipal court judge and will begin her tenure on August 1, 2018. Hood has been the municipal judge for the City of Franklin, Tennessee for the past four years.

Erika Perrone Tatum was elected to the board of directors of the Alabama Council of School Board Attorneys. Tatum is a shareholder of Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black in Montgomery, Alabama.

1997

Kyle Craig Barrentine, a lawyer with the Anniston Army Depot, received his LL.M. from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the lone civilian in the 66th Graduate Course.

James Childs is a partner at Maynard Cooper & Gale PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jana Garner was elected as an Alabama State Bar commissioner for the 4th Judicial Circuit. Garner also received the Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award during the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

1999

Andrew Pope was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to become the solicitor general for Thomas County, Georgia.

India Vincent became the first firm chief privacy office (CPO) of Burr & Forman. Vincent works in the Birmingham, Alabama, office.

2000

Aaron Brooks Thomas has joined Watkins & Eager PLLC as a member and will practice in the Birmingham, Alabama, office.

2001

O. Benton Curtis III is a partner with Broad & Cassel LLP in Miami, Florida.

Matt Fridy received the Alabama Law Institute Legislative Award during the Alabama State Bar Association Annual Meeting. Fridy continues to serve as an Alabama state representative for District 73 and as an attorney with Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt in Birmingham, Alabama.

E. Dianne Gamble was elected president of Alabama Council of School Board Attorneys. Gamble is a shareholder of Hill Hill Carter Franco Cole & Black in Birmingham, Alabama.

Erik Heninger was elected to the Alabama State Bar Board of Commissioners for the 10th Judicial Circuit. He will continue to sit on the Alabama State Bar Character & Fitness Committee and the Disciplinary Rules & Enforcement Committee.

Jason Waddell, a board certified Florida elder law attorney, was inducted as chair of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section during the Florida Bar's Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, in June.

Gerald Webb Jr. was appointed to become a member of the Hamilton County Partnership Network Advisory Board by the Tennessee Department of Education.

2002

Kent Altom is teaching business law at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Kimberly Dougherty is assistant general counsel for the Department of Children's Services in the Southwest region of Tennessee.

R. Tyler Hand joined Waller Law in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

James Pattillo is a partner at Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tanya Tidwell is an attorney with Solano Firm LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cindy Self Webb is a partner at Massey Stotser & Nichols PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Andrew Wheeler founded The Wheeler Firm PA with two offices in Shalimar and Miramar Beach, Florida.

2004

Josh Bell joined Balch & Bingham as a partner in its energy practice in Birmingham, Alabama.

Keith Brown is the managing director of OnBoard Search in Birmingham, Alabama, a legal-focused recruiting firm. Brown also serves as entrepreneur-in-residence in Samford University's Brock School of Business.

Brian H. Mendenhall is the associate director for personal and career development, STEM careers, health, consulting and business analytics at Wake Forest University in Greensboro/Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

2005

Steve Hall is general counsel for the state of Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in Tallahassee, Florida.

Scott Holmes was elected as an Alabama State Bar commissioner for the 6th Judicial Circuit, Place 2. As president of the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association, Holmes received the Local Bar Achievement Award during the Alabama State Bar Association annual meeting.

Matthew C. Jordan founded The Law Office of Matthew C. Jordan with offices in Atlanta and Athens, Georgia.

L. Simone Washington presented a workshop, "How to Become Allies Fighting the Same System, Role Play, Power Analytics, Conflict and Resolution Techniques" at the University of Vermont. Washington is the social mission strategy and policy manager at Ben & Jerry's Homemade in Burlington, Vermont.

Brandi C. Williams was appointed as the first female municipal court judge in Pell City in St. Clair County, Alabama.

2006

David Cooper is a partner at Maynard Cooper & Gale PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Robert B. "Bob" Goss was elected by a convention of delegates to serve as the state advocate to the Texas State Council (TSC), Knights of Columbus. The five TSC officers represent more than 108,000 brother knights in the state of Texas.

Richard Wright is an attorney at Wettermark & Keith in Birmingham, Alabama.

2007

Jessica Edmundson Rahm is an attorney at Campbell & Brannon LLC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Kimberly Perkins is an associate with Lloyd & Hogan in Birmingham, Alabama.

2008

Meredith Hamilton Barnes is special counsel at the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency in Montgomery, Alabama.

Christie J. Estes joined the board of directors for Alabama Defense Lawyers Association.

Brooke Milstead Nixon is a partner at Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete in Birmingham, Alabama.

Luisa Kay Reyes authored "Risking Everything to Come," published in *River Poets Journal*, 2018 Special Edition, *The Immigrants*, an anthology, Vol. 12, Issue 1.

Morgan Sport is a senior staff counsel in the Office of General Counsel at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

April Wise is a partner at Balch & Bingham in Montgomery, Alabama.

2009

John S. Baker IV is an associate with Akerman in Jacksonville, Florida.

Daniel J. Ferretti is a shareholder of Baker Donelson in Houston, Texas.

Alan Kirk was promoted to major in the U.S. Army. He, along with his family, is stationed in Columbia, South Carolina.

Jennifer Johnson is director of KM Systems at Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Megan Head Jones was elected to join the International Association of Defense Council.

Dustin Manning is senior counsel for Chlor Alkali Products and Vinylsat Olin Corporation in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Anderson Robinson is a litigation attorney with The Law Office of Natalie Smith in Atlanta, Georgia.

LaTonia Williams joined 5 Points Law Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

2010

Kristin Burge is an associate at McCranie, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch LLC in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Candace Deer is a senior complex litigation specialist at Proassurance in Birmingham, Alabama.

Shannon Dye is managing partner of Carney Dye LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Christopher Gifford is an attorney at Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers in Atlanta, Georgia.

Nathan Mays is an assistant attorney general in the Alabama attorney general's office in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jessica Thomas is director counsel for employee relations with Target.

2011

Heather Chesser is regional director, special counsel, based out of Nashville, Tennessee.

Marshall Clay is a partner and senior advisor at The Welch Group in Mountain Brook, Alabama.

Charles Elliott was elected to the Morgan County Circuit Court in Decatur, Alabama. His investiture is expected in January 2019.

Clark H. Henderson cofounded Oberliesen & Henderson in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

Andy Olds is an architect with KPS Group Inc. in Birmingham, Alabama.

2012

Laura Akins is an attorney at Nadler Biernath LLC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Margaret "Meg" Williamson Clements is president-elect of the Pell City Rotary Club for 2018-19.

W. Wesley Hill and **J. Winston Busby** co-authored a practical law portfolio on estate administration and estate planning in Alabama, which was published by Thomson Reuters.

Major John (J.P.) Policastro is regimental judge advocate (primary legal advisor) to the commander of 2nd Cavalry Regiment for the U.S. Army and is stationed in Germany.

CLASS NOTES COLLECTED MAY 1 - AUGUST 15, 2018

James Sauter is corporate counsel with eviCore Healthcare in Franklin, Tennessee.

Kurt Schmisrauter is general counsel of Walden Security in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

2013

Dru Clark Bishop is a lawyer with the South Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program in Mobile, Alabama.

Veronica Williams Crenshaw is a fellow with GO Teams Office of School Governance in Atlanta, Georgia.

Leon Hampton was selected to serve as the vice president of the Alabama Lawyers Association (ALA). Hampton is a lawyer with Beasley Allen in Montgomery, Alabama.

Kerra Killingsworth Hicks is an associate at Womble Bond Dickinson in Atlanta, Georgia.

Avery Livingston Stewart is the public policy director for Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Montgomery, Alabama.

W. Chris Weaver founded the Law Office of W. Christopher Weaver in Birmingham, Alabama.

2014

Lance Goodson is an associate at Badham & Buck LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Zack Meltzer is a business development executive at Vuture in New York, New York.

Leirin Ragan is an attorney at Wilson & Berryhill PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

2015

Ross Barbier is a provider network manager at Hospicelink in Birmingham, Alabama.

Carli Bryant is an associate at Cory Watson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Sean Vanden Heuvel is a defense contract administrator with Northrup Grumman in Huntsville, Alabama.

Nick Leslie is a closing attorney with RELI Settlement Solutions LLC in Hoover, Alabama.

Lauren Miles is an attorney at Beasley Allen in Montgomery, Alabama.

Lindsay Mims started a small business called Irreverent Watercolor. Her art is sold on etsy.com.

Mary McDaniel Sheets works in the Office of the Director of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.

Keri Michelle Spiker is an assistant public defender in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Faye Doss Suggs is an associate with Legal Services Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama.

David T. Trice is an associate at Partridge Smith PC in Mobile, Alabama.

2016

Anna Schmarkey Cobb is participating in a 13-week program sponsored by Regions Bank as a loaned executive to United Way of Central Alabama.

Kyle Heslop is an attorney with Maynard Cooper in Birmingham, Alabama.

Matthew E. Hoyle and **Elise M. Hoyle** founded The Hoyle Law Firm in Dahlonega, Georgia.

Jordan Smith is an attorney with MacDowell and Associates Ltd. in Birmingham, Alabama.

Maci Brooke Smith is an information governance and privacy associate at KPMG in Atlanta, Georgia.

2017

Joshua A. Baker joined Wrady & Michel in Birmingham, Alabama.

Christian W. Borek is an associate with Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Anthony Bowling is an attorney at Sheffield & Lentine in Birmingham, Alabama.

A.J. Craig, in January 2018, became an ammunitions commodities officer in the Florida Navy National Guard Brigade Support Battalion's 53rd IBCT in St. Petersburg, Florida. Craig is now a criminal analyst for FL-ARNG Counter Drug AF, Office of Statewide Prosecution in Tampa, Florida.

Mary Katherine Flynn is an associate attorney at Fuller Hampton LLC in Roanoke, Alabama.

Brittany Ford is an assistant district attorney for Talladega County, Alabama.

Depri Hale accepted a teaching position at Lake Gibson Middle School in Lakeland, Florida.

Nathaniel Hall is an attorney at Charles Pitman Attorneys at Law in Huntsville, Alabama.

Sharidan Hollis is an attorney in regulatory affairs for Viva Health in Birmingham, Alabama.

Benjamin Keown is an assistant state attorney with the State Attorney's Office, 14th Judicial Circuit in Panama City, Florida.

Patrick Perry received his LL.M. from New York University and is an associate with Gilpin Givhan in Montgomery, Alabama.

Haley Brown Stencil is an investment attorney at Foster Pepper LLC in Seattle, Washington.

Jordan Thompson is a client associate at Altera Advisors in Atlanta, Georgia.

2018

Leah Johnson is an associate at Citrin Law Firm in Mobile, Alabama.

Stuart Lang is a judicial law clerk in the 13th Judicial Circuit in Mobile, Alabama.

Marriages

Robert Boland '95 married Regan Fad on June 16, 2018.

Dru Lauren Clark '13 married **Baxter Bishop '15** on June 2, 2018. The couple resides in Mobile, Alabama.

Charles Manush '16 married Sara Hamilton on July 14, 2018. The couple resides in Georgia.

Heather Searcy '11 married Michael Fly on August 4, 2018. The couple lives in Fort Meyers, Florida.

Births

Lauren De Witt '13 and **Aaron De Witt** welcomed a baby boy, **Ronald Abbott De Witt**, on May 29, 2018.

Kiel Gross '10 and her husband, **Josh Hunter**, welcomed a baby girl, **Hadden James Hunter**, on July 30, 2018.

Laura C. Herndon '09 and her husband, **Zach Neill**, welcomed a baby boy, **David Yates Neill**, on February 12, 2018.

Mari Irwin '08 and **Chris Wooten '08** welcomed a baby boy, **Seizo Isidore Wooten**, on June 20, 2018.

Craig Lawrence Jr. '12 and **Maggie Lawrence** welcomed a baby boy, **Briggs Worthington Lawrence**, on June 6, 2018.

Rachel Stewart Martin '13 and **Roy Martin '13** welcomed a baby girl, **Magdalene Katherine "Maggie" Martin**, on July 19, 2018.

Sean Modjarrad '00 and **Nasa Modjarrad** welcomed a baby boy, **Cyrus Nasser Modjarrad**, on July 20, 2018.

Jonathan Moody '10 and **Luisa Moody** welcomed twin daughters, **Ana Cecilia** and **Emilia Cora Moody**, on July 20, 2018.

Matthew Stephens '03 and **Rachel Stephens** welcomed a baby boy, **Oliver Ansel Stephens**, on March 22, 2018.

W. Christopher Weaver '13 and **Ashley Weaver** welcomed a baby boy, **Bryson James Weaver**, on August 8, 2018.

In Memoriam

Robert Thomas Brooks '70, of Pinson, Alabama, passed away on June 24, 2018.

Mark Andrew Goettel '88, of New Port Ritchey, Florida, passed away on July 19, 2018.

John Richard Hefferan '76, of Orlando, Florida, passed away on April 28, 2018.

James Michael "Mick" Keel '98, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on June 28, 2018.

Hon. Helen Shores Lee '87, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on July 2, 2018.

James Edmund Odum Jr. '76, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away in April 2018.

William A. Parker '67, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on May 15, 2018.

Hon. Theodore B. Scott '68, of Buffalo, Missouri, passed away on June 24, 2018.

Hon. Sandra Storm '78, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on June 4, 2018.

Hon. William Wilkes '68, of Clay County, Florida, passed away on July 20, 2018.



Sara Williams '06 to Receive Prestigious Professionalism Award

Sara Williams '06, a Cumberland National Trial Team coach, will receive the Edward D. Ohlbaum Professionalism Award from Stetson University College of Law. The award honors an individual whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law. The award is designed to recognize a trial team coach who exemplifies a commitment to practicing with a high degree of professionalism, integrity and competency.

Williams is managing attorney for Alexander Shunnarah Personal Injury Lawyers where she practices in the areas of trucking and automotive litigation. *Alabama Super Lawyers* magazine has

named her a Rising Star since 2011 and she was recognized by the *Birmingham Business Journal* as one of Birmingham's Top 40 under 40 in 2017.

While at Cumberland, Williams served as the chief judge of Cumberland's Trial Advocacy Board and was a member of the National Trial Team and National Mediation Team. Her National Trial Competition team won the region in 2006 and in doing so were the first team to ever win every single judge's ballot during competition. She also won the ABA's National Mediation Competition in 2005. Sara serves as an adjunct professor in Cumberland's advocacy program and for the last nine years has served as a coach for Cumberland's National Trial Team.

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In April 2018, our inaugural advocacy benefit was held with a purpose to raise support for and to advance 21st-century advocacy education at Cumberland School of Law.

The generosity of our event sponsors, donors and alumni for that event has provided support for:

- Registration fees for regional and national competitions
- Materials used to prepare the regional and national teams for competition, including, but not limited to, printing costs for distribution and analysis of the problems
- Video-taping of practice rounds of regional and national teams in preparation for competition
- Travel expenses related to regional and/or national competitions
- The purchase of iPads for trial classes and preparation for team competitions

In order to fully fund a new Center for Advocacy Education, the needs are great. With your support we will be able to:

- Expand the current advocacy curriculum
- Build a dedicated physical space for the center
- Upgrade the technology in every practice courtroom
- Dedicate funding for team travel expenses
- Dedicate funding for team coaches
- Dedicate funding to host invitational trial competitions
- Endow an academic chair in advocacy
- Hire a professor of trial advocacy and director of trial competitions
- Endow funds for support staff
- Create a fellows program to bring outstanding alumni to campus to train aspiring litigators

We are thankful for the support we've received already toward this initiative and look forward to the future of advancing Cumberland's advocacy training program to educate the nation's brightest 21st-century advocates.

To support a new Center for Advocacy Education at Cumberland School of Law, contact:

Paula K. Kierce, Director of Development
pkierce@samford.edu • 205-726-4542 • 334-657-3193



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