



E-Newsletter

February 21, 2006

Judge John L. Carroll, Dean

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AMERICAN JUDICATURE SOCIETY MEETING

The **American Judicature Society** (AJS) will be holding its mid-winter board meeting at the law school from **February 23 - 25**. The American Judicature Society (AJS) was founded in 1913 and is an independent, non-partisan organization of judges, lawyers and other members of the public who seek to improve the justice system. Its mission is to secure and promote an independent and qualified judiciary.

In conjunction with the board meeting, the law school and AJS are hosting a national conference on judicial selection entitled "***Rethinking Strategies for Judicial Reform***".

FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Bert Brandenburg, Executive Director, Justice at Stake

Anthony Champagne, Professor of Political Science,
University of Texas at Dallas

Senator Robert Duncan, Texas State Senator

Chris Heagerty, Executive Director,
The North Carolina Center for Voter Excellence

Frank Simoneaux, President,
Louisiana Organization for Judicial Excellence

The Honorable James Smith,
Chief Justice of Mississippi

Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director,
Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama

The Honorable Peter Webster,
Florida First District Court of Appeals

The seminar will be in the **Moot Court Room** from **9:00 AM** to **5:00 PM** on Friday, **February 24** and from **9:00 AM** to **noon** on Saturday, **February 25**.

Cumberland students, staff and faculty may attend all or part of the sessions without charge.

THE SEDONA CONFERENCE TOWN MEETING

The **Sedona Conference** is a nationally recognized legal think tank which focuses on issues relating to antitrust, intellectual property and complex litigation. The Town Meeting will focus on the public's right of access to information filed with or provided to courts in civil cases. The purpose of the meeting is to engage the practicing bar and the judiciary in a dialogue about confidentiality orders, protective orders and public and press access to the courts. The meeting will take place:

February 23, 2006

2:00 - 5:00 PM

Moot Court Room

Cumberland students, staff and faculty may attend all or part of the Town Meeting without charge.

THE CUMBERLAND FEDERALIST SOCIETY

The Cumberland Federalist Society will host **Dr. Max Hocutt**, retired chair of the University of Alabama Philosophy Department, on **Thursday, February 23** at **11:00 AM** in **room 121**. Dr. Hocutt will deliver his speech entitled, "**Negative versus Positive Rights: How Welfare Reduces Liberty**." A Q & A period will follow. All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. Dr. Hocutt's presentation is based on his article "**Sunstein on Rights**," as well as Cass Sunstein's response "**Confusing Rights: A Reply to Hocutt**," both of which recently appeared in The Independent Review. Dr. Hocutt's biography can be found at:

<http://www.as.ua.edu/philos/faculty/hocutt.php>

TENNESSEE BAR MEETING

A Tennessee Bar Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **February 23 at 11:00 AM** in the **Florida Room**. The meeting is being held to discuss planning the Southern Bar party and elections for next year.

CUMBERLAND WINS REGIONAL OF NATIONAL TRIAL COMPETITION

Cumberland School of Law sent two teams to compete in the Region 7 National Trial Competition February 17 & 18, 2006 in Oxford, Mississippi. The team of **Kelley Travis, Gordon Boutwell, and James Sears** did well but will not advance to Nationals. The team of **LeRonne Riddick-Seals, Aaron Ryan, and Sara Williams** defeated Wake Forest in the semi-final round and Alabama in the final round to advance to the National Finals in Dallas, Texas, March 22 - 25, 2006. Every judge in every round in which this team competed voted the team to win.

The teams are coached by **Jim Roberts**.

WILLIAMS FRESHMAN TRIAL COMPETITION SEMI-FINALISTS

Congratulations to the following semi-finalists in the Williams trial competition! The pairings will be as follows:

Brooks/ Wooten v. Inge/ Bears

Casey/ Brasher v. Rubio/ Andrews

The semi-finalist round will take place on Sunday, March 5th at 2:00 PM.

Kelley Travis
Assistant Director of Williams Competition

ABA CLIENT COUNSELING COMPETITION

Cumberland had one team competing in the Region 5 ABA Client Counseling Competition at Florida A & M University College of Law on February 18 & 19, 2006. The team members were **Lewis Higgins** and **William Motlow**. Although the team did not win the competition they did represent Cumberland well. The team was coached by **Jim Lloyd**.

REGIONAL ABA REPRESENTATION IN MEDIATION COMPETITION

Cumberland will be a host school for the **Regional ABA Representation in Mediation Competition**. The competition will be held **February 25 and 26, 2006**. The team members selected to represent Cumberland are:

Monica Nelson
Kimberly Perkins
Andrew Schilder
Keith Walker

We will have fourteen teams from law schools across the southeast here competing.

SITE VISIT

The American Bar Association (ABA) and the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) visit every law school in the country on a seven-year cycle to assess their compliance with appropriate standards. A team from the ABA and AALS will be at our law school from **February 26** through **March 1**. The members of the team are:

Professor Jack Miller (chair)
University of Idaho School of Law

Professor Peter Joy
Washington University School of Law

Professor John Edwards
Drake University School of Law

Justice Carol Kapsner
North Dakota Supreme Court

Professor Michael Hernandez
Regent University School of Law

Professor Alexander Scherr
University of Georgia School of Law

The team will be housed in the Dean's conference room and will be meeting with University officials and Cumberland faculty, staff and students while they are here. They have scheduled a specific meeting for students from **3:30 to 4:30 PM on Monday, February 27** in the **Great Room**. Refreshments will be served. They are interested in hearing from everyone in our community, so please make every effort to attend scheduled meetings if you are available.

If you have any questions about the site visit process or our particular site visit, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me.

CLASS OF 2006

If you are a member of the Class of 2006 and are planning on taking a bar other than the Alabama Bar, please stop by the Law Student Records Office and sign the list to have your graduation certification sent to the appropriate bar.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

On Saturday, March 11th, the Admissions Office will host its annual Acceptance Day. Students are needed to help with this event. If you are interested, plan on attending a brief meeting on Thursday, **February 23rd at 11:30 AM** in room **114**. At the meeting, Jennifer Sims will describe the events of the day and highlight where your help is needed most.

For those who cannot attend the meeting, but would like to help, please email Jennifer Sims, jysims@samford.edu, by Wednesday, February 22nd.

WIRELESS INTERNET UPDATE

Have you configured your laptop to access the SamfordSecure wireless connection (<http://www.samford.edu/wireless>), but still only get on-campus web sites. In order to access off campus sites, you must verify you have the University's proxy set up in your internet browser. This proxy configuration must be completed whether you use wireless or wired connections to Samford's network.

To configure the proxy in Internet Explorer:

1. Launch Internet Explorer
2. Click Tools
3. Click Internet Options
4. Click the Connections tab
5. Click the LAN Settings button
6. Check the box next to Use automatic configuration script
7. In the Address blank, type <http://proxy.samford.edu/proxy.pac>
8. Click OK
9. Click OK

If you use a browser other than Internet Explorer, send me an email at jmwhitco@samford.edu and I will get the configuration steps for you.

SUMMER 2006 PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIPS

Summer stipends are available through the Henry G. and Henry U. Sims Foundation to students who commit to performing 8 – 10 weeks of otherwise uncompensated public interest or public service legal work in the Greater Birmingham Area during the Summer of 2006. Other limited resources are available for placements outside of Birmingham.

Applicants should submit an application with the following information:

- The name of the agency or organization with whom you intend to work (must serve the Greater Birmingham Area)
- A description of the work
- The name and title of the supervising attorney
- A statement about why you are interested in exploring Public Interest Law as a career option

Awards will be based on:

- The educational benefit of the proposed work experience
- The benefit to the community of the proposed work experience
- The student's expressed interest in pursuing a career in public interest work

Applications should be turned into Vice Dean Lewis by **March 17, 2006**. Past recipients have worked for: Legal Services of Metro Birmingham, Legal Aid Society, Shelby County Public Defender's Office, Jeff Co Drug Court & DHR. Please see Dean Lewis (room 134) if you have any questions or would like to discuss development of a placement. Applications are available in the Dean's office.
