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JUDGE JOHN L. CARROLL, DEAN

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CUMBERLAND'S BLSA NAMED CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

Cumberland's Chapter of the Black Law Students Association was named 2006-2007 Chapter of the Year by the Southern Region of the Black Law Students Association (SRBLSA). Cumberland BLSA members and officers worked diligently this year to further community service, academic, and social awareness initiatives. Professor Donald Cochran was the keynote speaker at the SRBLSA Awards Banquet and was able to take part in Cumberland BLSA's victory. In March, Cumberland BLSA will represent Southern Region in the selection of National Chapter of the Year for the National Black Law Students Association in Atlanta, Georgia.

Cumberland BLSA also had two teams participate in the SRBLSA Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition and the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition. Tondra Moore, LaMonica Orr, Robyn Owens, and Randall Woodfin comprised the mock trial team. Michelle Butler and LaTara Johnson were advocates on the moot court team. Both teams advanced to the quarterfinals and gave outstanding performances!

Two Cumberland BLSA members were elected to the 2007-2008 SRBLSA Board. Josie Harris-Walton was elected the Sub-Region V Director, responsible for all BLSA chapters in Alabama and Georgia. Tondra Moore was elected Regional Director of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Competition and will coordinate the regional mock trial competition next year. Also, three Cumberland BLSA members--Kelli Byers-Hooper, Janese Caruthers, and Mu'min Islam--ended their reign as SRBLSA Board Members. This year, Kelli served as the SRBLSA Regional Chair, Janese served as the SRBLSA Regional Vice Chair, and Mu'min was the SRBLSA Job Fair Coordinator and Corporate Relations Co-Chair. Under their tenure, SRBLSA exceeded expectations for fundraising and convention attendance.

BLSA's officers would like to thank BLSA members and Cumberland's student body, faculty, and staff. Just as the

achievement of one member is the achievement of all; the success of one student organization is also the success of the school. Thank you for all of your support!

Congratulations BLSA!



ABA TAX CHALLENGE

Kathryn Walker and **Mark Hammond** traveled to the ABA Tax Section Conference in Orlando, Florida, to compete in the semi-finals of the ABA Tax Challenge. Kathryn and Mark were invited to compete based on submitting one of the top six (of 32 entries) papers answering several sophisticated tax planning questions. Kathryn and Mark finished fourth in the competition. The judges included the Chief judge of the United States Tax Court, the Associate Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and two practicing attorneys. The team thanks Professors Floyd, Warren, DiRusso, Snoe, and Blackburn for their assistance in preparing for the competition.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

SaveFirst, a nonprofit organization that provides free tax form preparation services to low-income individuals, will be holding its training sessions on **January 22** and **23** from 6:30 - 10:00 PM in the computer lab in the law library.

Students are strongly encouraged to volunteer. Please feel free to contact Professor DiRusso (room 239G or

aadiruss@samford.edu) or Sarah Louise Smith, the Program Coordinator (ssmith@impactalabama.org) with any questions.

INTERVIEWING SKILLS AND INTRODUCTION TO eAttorney PROGRAM FOR 1LS

The Career Services Office will hold its Interviewing Skills and Introduction to eAttorney program for 1Ls in the **Moot Courtroom** at **3:00 PM** on Tuesday, **January 23**.

In this program, the CSO staff will teach you step by step how to use the online eAttorney system to participate in Spring Recruiting and to view job postings for summer clerkships, part-time clerk positions, and new associate positions.

The program will also feature guest speaker **Vic Hayslip**. Mr. Hayslip is a Cumberland alumnus and a partner in Burr & Forman's Birmingham office. He will discuss interviewing for law clerk and summer associate positions and will answer questions on this and other related topics.

SBA BLOOD DRIVE

On Tuesday, **January 23, 2007**, the Student Bar Association will host a blood drive in the **Great Room** from 10 AM to 3 PM. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to participate. To make an appointment, please visit:

<https://www.givelife.org/index.cfm?Sponsor=CLS>

PRESENTATION BY JIM UKROPINA, NATIONALLY KNOWN CORPORATE ETHICS EXPERT

On Tuesday, **January 23, 2007**, Jim Ukropina, a nationally known corporate ethics expert will be speaking to Professor LaVone Warren's Business Organizations Class. The speech will be at **8:00 AM** in Room 118 and is open to the public. Mr. Ukropina is the Executive Officer of Directions LLC, a strategic management and consulting firm and is also of counsel to the

law firm of O'Melveny and Myers In Los Angeles where he specializes in corporate law.

The topic of his speech will be *Corporate Scandals: Are They Inevitable? How to Deal With Them In Your Career.*

PRACTICE INTERVIEW PROGRAM FOR 1LS

On Tuesday, **January 30th** and Wednesday, **January 31st**, the Career Services Office will hold its annual Practice Interview Program for 1Ls. This is your opportunity to receive valuable feedback from a local attorney before you start interviewing for summer employment. You will find this experience very valuable, whether or not you intend to participate in Spring On-Campus Interviewing.

If you wish to register for an interview, you must:

- Sign the sign-up sheet in the Career Services Office
- E-mail Jan Jones a copy of your resume (preferably in Microsoft Word format) **no later than Wednesday, January 24th**

The CSO will assign students to an interviewer and an interview time. Practice Interviews will last about 30 minutes and will begin each day at 4:30, 5:00 or 5:30 PM. Typically, there is time for a 15 or 20 minute interview and a 10 or 15 minute critique.

Historically, this has been a very popular program. Since the number of interview slots will be limited based on the number of attorneys available to interview, the CSO will assign interviews to students on a first come, first served basis.

CALLED TO THE BAR

Substance abuse and alcoholism are at an all time high among lawyers and law students. The ***Called to the Bar*** program scheduled for Thursday, **January 25, 2007** at 11:00 AM in the Moot Courtroom will focus on State Bar Programs, which provide assistance in dealing with those sorts of problems. Jeanne Marie Leslie who is the Director of the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program and David Woolridge who is a partner in the Sirote Law Firm will be the presenters.

CORDELL HULL SPEAKERS FORUM

Renowned attorney **Thomas A. Mesereau, Jr.** has accepted an invitation from the Cordell Hull Speakers Forum to speak at Cumberland on **January 25, 2007**, at 4:00 PM, in the Moot Courtroom. His speech will be followed by a reception in the Great Room.

Mr. Mesereau is a graduate of Harvard University, the London School of Economics and the University of California Hastings College of Law. He is recognized as one of the country's top criminal defense lawyers. He is most recently known for his successful defense of pop singer Michael Jackson. Following a five-month trial, Jackson was acquitted on all counts. The acquittal on June 13, 2005 followed a five-month trial, which garnered worldwide attention.

Following the Jackson acquittals, interview requests were endless. Mr. Mesereau appeared on the **Larry King Live** and **Jay Leno** shows to explain why Michael Jackson was acquitted. **Barbara Walters** named him one of her "*10 Most Fascinating People*", due to his victory in the Jackson case and because of his presence and pro bono work in the African-American community. **GQ Magazine** named him one of the "Top Men of the Year" because of his "determination" against numerous obstacles in the Jackson case.

Cordell Hull Chair, Tyrus Sturgis, says, "Mr. Mesereau has expressed that he is honored and excited about speaking to our student body. I told him that the feeling is mutual. Tom is phenomenal trial lawyer. I am sure that his message will be pertinent and powerful."

CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTER WILL HOST TRAINING

On Thursday, **January 25, 2007**, the Cumberland Community Mediation Center will host a training in dispute resolution and mediation techniques for staff members of Samford's Residence Life Department. In addition to the training, a team of law students from the fall 2006 Mediator Practice course has volunteered to serve as mediators in disputes referred from Residence Life.

ACDLA DEATH PENALTY SEMINAR

The Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in conjunction with the Cumberland School of Law and the University of Alabama School of Law is sponsoring a seminar on Death Penalty Litigation at the Embassy Suites in Birmingham on **January 26 – 27, 2007**. The seminar, which features nationally recognized death penalty litigators, begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 5:00 PM both days. At 9:00 AM on Saturday, Rev. Dr. Joseph Lowery will give the keynote address.

Cumberland students are invited to attend the seminar free of charge.

WORKS IN PROGRESS PROGRAM

Elizabeth F. Brown, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, will be the first speaker for our spring works-in-progress programs. The topic of Professor Brown's presentation is "*A Cost-Benefit Analysis of State Regulation of Financial Services*." More information about Professor Brown can be found by visiting the following website:

<http://www.stthomas.edu/law/academics/faculty/fulltimefaculty/brown.asp>

The program will take place at **noon** in the Dean's Conference Room on Friday, **January 26, 2007**.

ALABAMA BAR DEADLINE

All students need to check deadlines for submitting applications to sit for the July Bar in various states. As a reminder, the deadline for submitting applications to sit for the **Alabama Bar** is **February 1, 2007**. Please keep the following in mind as you submit your paperwork:

- If you did not submit a student registration, you will need to do so at the same time.
- All information furnished by you must be typed unless specifically requested otherwise on the application.

- Limited fingerprinting is available through Campus Safety. Please see me if you are interested in having fingerprinting done on campus.
- For your convenience, a checklist is shown below so that you may ensure you have everything you need prior to sending your application.
- Directions to the Alabama Department of Public Safety (for the purpose of obtaining the Driving Record Abstract) are available in the Student Services Office. Information for obtaining driving abstracts from all states is available at the following website:
<http://www.gustafsonlaw.com/DMV-Abstracts.htm>.
- Selective Service registration information required by all males is available online at
www.sss.gov/regver/verify.asp.
- Make a copy of all information prior to mailing your application.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact:

Ms. Pam Nelson
Coordinator of Student Services
726.2222
pjnelson@samford.edu

CHECKLIST FOR BAR APPLICATIONS

BAR APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applicable to everyone:

- Application – Must be typed
- Application Fee (\$400 or \$600; See Rule II B, Rule II E, and Appendix in *Rules Governing Admission to the Alabama State Bar*)
- Fingerprint Cards (2)
- Fingerprint Release
- \$25 cashier's check or money order payable to Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI)

- Authorization and Release Form
- Driving Abstract
- 3 Affidavits – From attorneys in good standing who have been admitted to practice in the State of Alabama or the state of the applicant’s residency for five years

Additional items some individuals will need to include:

- Addendums
- Marriage Certificate
- Copy of Selective Service – All males
- Request for Accommodation

In addition to the application:

- Hotel Reservations – Immediately following graduation at the latest

FROM THE OFFICE OF LAW STUDENT RECORDS

Classroom materials are available in Law Student Records for Pre-Trial Practice, Alabama Practice & Procedure and Arbitration for those students who do not have their materials yet.

In addition, candidates for spring graduation will need to stop by Law Student Records to advise Ms. Hubbard or Ms. Click if you plan to sit for a bar other than Alabama. They will prepare a Certificate of Graduation for Alabama for all graduates automatically but will need additional notice if documentation needs to be provided for any other state bars.
