

April 2, 2007

JUDGE JOHN L. CARROLL, DEAN

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HARVEY S. JACKSON EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Eddie Jackson '76 and Richard Fikes '85 have endowed the Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award to allow the law school to recognize members of the law school faculty for their teaching excellence. A joint faculty student committee selects the award. The award is presented at the Friday night dinner on Alumni Weekend.

The winners of the award for this year are **Professor Ed Martin** (First Year Courses) and **Professor Marcia McCormick** (Upper Level Courses).

Congratulations to Professors Martin and McCormick!

LIGHTFOOT, FRANKLIN & WHITE FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Lightfoot, Franklin & White law firm under the leadership of Jere White '80 has provided \$100,000 to endow an award for faculty scholarship. The award allows the law school to recognize faculty members who have published the most significant scholarly work over the past year. The award is selected by a committee composed of faculty and a member of the Lightfoot, Franklin & White firm. The inaugural winners of the award are **Professor Alyssa DiRusso** and **Professor David Smolin**. They received their award at the Friday night dinner on Alumni Weekend.

Congratulations to Professors DiRusso and Smolin!

April 5, 2007
The Dean's Conference Room

- Return to Campus for CLE
April 5, 2007
The Moot Court Room
- Public Interest Career Fair
April 10, 2007
The Great Room
- 2007 Alabama Appellate Courts Oral
Arguments
April 12, 2007
Wright Center
- ABA Lieutenant Governors
- 2007 Annual Healthcare, Ethics and Law
Conference
April 13, 2007
Brock Forum
- University Closed April 9, 2007

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb of the Alabama Supreme Court recently established the Access To Justice Commission, a body charged with the responsibility of assuring high quality access to legal services for low-income citizens and others in Alabama who suffer disparate access barriers to the civil justice system.

Judge John L. Carroll was nominated by Chief Justice Cobb to serve on the Commission, and the Alabama Supreme Court approved his appointment. The first meeting of the Access to Justice Commission will be April 5, 2007 at the Alabama State Bar office.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Alyssa DiRusso is serving on a panel of the American Bar Association that is making suggestions to Treasury regarding new tax legislation on supporting organizations. Her article on supporting organizations was published in the Indiana Law Review last year.

2007 – 2008 HENRY UPSON SIMS MOOT COURT BOARD EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chief Justice: Rhett Owens

National Team Associate Justice: Brian Malcom

National Team Assistant Justice: Christie Strange

Saad Associate Justice: Preston Neel

Saad Assistant Justice: Andrew Stanley

Shores Associate Justice: Brooke Malcom

Shores Assistant Justice: Amanda Mink

Donworth Associate Justice: Enslin Crowe

Donworth Assistant Justice: David Sawyer

2007 – 2008 BLSA OFFICERS

President: LaMonica Orr

Vice President: Mu'min Islam

Secretary: Jennifer Vester

Treasurer: Sheena Allen

Parliamentarian: Larry Young

Historian: Kimberly Baker

Director of Community Service: Jessica Thomas

Fundraising Chair: Melanie Warner

Thurgood Marshall Symposium Chair: Brian Spellen

ABA NATIONAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMPETITION

Cumberland's two National ABA Moot Court teams recently competed in the regional competition in St. Louis. **Preston Neel, Nicole Leet, and Brian Duncan** formed one team and **Brian Malcom, Brooke Garner Malcom, and Rhett Owens** comprised the second team. **Mr. Tom Powell** of Marsh, Rickard & Bryan coached the teams.

In December, the teams researched and wrote briefs on the issues presented. The teams submitted their briefs in early January and practiced oral argument rounds three times a week throughout January and February. Attorneys, judges, professors and Moot Court members judged the practice rounds.

The Malcom/Malcom/Owens team on the merits of a strong brief score advanced to the quarterfinal rounds. All six team members worked extremely hard and were excellent representatives of Cumberland in the ABA competition. The Moot Court is proud of them.

COURSE EVALUATIONS & PRIZES

The law school began conducting course and faculty evaluations this week (**April 2**). Like last semester, evaluations will be online. These evaluations are critically important to the law school. We thus ask all students to complete evaluations for each of their courses.

Instructions: To complete evaluations, simply access the law school website from any internet connection, click "Faculty Evaluations" in the box in the upper right portion of the screen,

and follow the instructions. SBA representatives are visiting all classes beginning April 2 to facilitate online evaluations in class. Students who bring their laptops to class and who have wireless internet capacity may complete evaluations at that time. Students are free, however, to complete evaluations outside class on any computer. The evaluations site will be open from **April 2** until 11:59 PM on **April 24**.

Prizes: To encourage participation and to reward classes that have a high level of participation, prizes will be awarded to classes whose response rates hit certain marks:

PIZZA PARTY: First, every class that achieves a 75% response rate by April 16 will be invited to a pizza party to be held the last day of classes (Tuesday, April 24) from 11:30 – 1:00 in the Great Room.

iPod DRAWING: Second, all students in classes that achieve an 85% response rate by the end of April 24 will be entered in a drawing for a new 30GB Video iPod. If a student is in multiple classes that achieve an 85% response rate, that student will be entered in the drawing multiple times (one for each class achieving that rate). The drawing will be held at 10:00 AM on April 26 in the breezeway.

Some have questioned why we moved evaluations online. We did so simply because online evaluations are immensely more efficient, saving significant time and money. Online evaluations also are more accessible for students who now can complete evaluations anywhere during the evaluation period, even if they miss the class's evaluation day and even if they require more than the 10 minutes of class time allotted for in-class completion. The online responses are entirely confidential, as there is no way to identify the author of any submitted evaluation. The system requires students to log-in only to assure that each student completes only one evaluation per course.

Your completion of these evaluations each semester is critically important to the law school. Not only do faculty use the evaluations to improve their classes and teaching, but the school uses both the narrative responses and summaries of the numerical data to identify teaching strengths and identify problems that require action. We strongly urge you, therefore, to take a few minutes to complete evaluations for each of your courses.

So complete your evaluations early and encourage your classmates to do so as well so that you 'll be eligible for the pizza party and the iPod drawing!

GRADUATION CANDIDATES

All May 2007 graduation candidates need to go online to http://www.samford.edu/groups/sturec/steps_to_graduation.htm to receive important graduation information and verify personal information to be used in the 2007 commencement program.

Students should click on "list of graduation candidates" in Step 1, then select "sort by name" to verify the spelling of name and hometown listing. Any corrections to this information should be directed to Debbie Crowson (dkcrowso@samford.edu).

GRADUATION INVITATIONS

May 2007 graduates may now browse Cumberland graduation invitation packages at <http://www.jostens.com>. Students preferring to order invitations in person may do so **April 3 – 5** when Jostens representatives will be available during a Graduation Expo at the University bookstore.

CUMBERLAND DEMOCRATS

The Cumberland Democrats will be hosting Judge Pete Johnson on Tuesday, **April 3, 2007** at 11:00 AM in the Trial Court Room. Judge Johnson will be speaking about Drug Court. Drug Court is session of district court that deals only with the crimes of drug possession and focuses on drug addiction treatment in lieu of time in jail. If someone is admitted into drug court and successfully completes the program, the charges against them are dismissed.

Chief Justice Cobb is pushing to have Drug Court programs in all counties in Alabama. Judge Johnson created the Drug Court program in Jefferson County and his program is the model used throughout the State. Judge Johnson, who recently retired, is working with Chief Justice Cobb to implement the program statewide.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION PROJECT

The Community Service Organization will sell flowers for Mother's Day for the **YWCA Flower Sale** this week in the

breezeway and in the food court. The annual YWCA Flower Sale is a fundraising project for the YWCA KIDS Korner project. You can visit their website for detailed info at <http://www.ywcabham.org>. KIDS Korner is a daycare for children that are living in homeless and domestic violence shelters. They keep the children while the mothers are out looking for work or going to school and trying to get back on their feet. Most of these children have really had a rough start to life and the KIDS Korner program tries to teach them skills to help the cope with the problems they face everyday and to build their self-esteem.

So, please stop by the table in the breezeway to check out the flowers and gifts for sale.

CALLED TO THE BAR

The speaker for Thursday, **April 5th**'s Called to the Bar will be **Jim Parkman** of the Cumberland Class of 1979. Jim has been a practicing criminal defense lawyer for the past 20 years and gained international fame for his successful defense of Richard Scrushy, the former CEO of HealthSouth. Neil Cavuto, of Fox News, has labeled Jim the "Greatest Lawyer on the Planet".

The program will take place at **11:00 AM** in the Moot Courtroom.

AJTA HOSTS BBQ LUNCH FOR 1LS

The American Journal of Trial Advocacy is hosting its annual luncheon for 1Ls this Thursday, **April 5**, 12:00-1:15 PM, on the East Patio (Great Room is rain location). All 1Ls are invited to enjoy Johnny Ray's BBQ and learn more about Journal membership and the Summer Writing Program.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

The law school annually recognizes students, faculty and staff who have completed 30 hours or more of public interest legal work, community service or public service during the school year. The recognition comes in the form of the Spirit of Service Award (a certificate suitable for framing) and an appreciation luncheon. This year, the luncheon will be held April 17. The certificates will be presented at that time.

You are encouraged to apply for the award. Examples of

qualifying work would include Street Law, VITA, Teen Court, Legal Services, work done through the law school organizations like the Community Services Organization, Women in Law, BLSA and the Christian Legal Society as well as work done through your favorite charitable organization or your church. All 30 hours do not need to have been completed through the same organization.

The application process for the award is very easy (the award operates on the honor system) and the applications are available in the Dean's office.

The applications should be turned into Kathy Walton in the Dean's office on or before April 5.

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

Professor Leonard J. Nelson will speak to the Cumberland faculty on Thursday, **April 5, 2007** at 11:00 AM in the Dean's Conference Room. Lunch will be ordered for those who respond by Tuesday afternoon, April 3rd.

Please contact Rhenae Kennedy at extension 2411 or rmkenned@samford.edu if you plan to attend. Professor Nelson's topic will be: Malpractice Reform.

RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR CLE

Cumberland School of Law announces a new CLE series to be held at the Moot Court Room in Robinson Hall on the Samford campus. Each program features two one-hour sessions, beginning at 5 PM. Participants may register for one or both hours. Upcoming programs are scheduled on the following Thursday evenings: April 5, April 12 and April 26.

Overview of April 5, 2007 Program

E-Discovery: The New Federal Rules

5:00 – 6:00 PM

Electronic Document Production and Privilege Claims
Jackson R. Sharman III, Lightfoot, Franklin, White, LLC

6:10 – 7:10 PM

*Two-Tiered Approach to E-Discovery,
Safe Harbors and Sanctions*
Judge John L. Carroll

You may register for one hour (\$30) or both hours (\$60) of each program. Call 1-800-888-7454 or (205) 726-2391 for more information and to register. You also may register online at:

http://cumberland.samford.edu/cumberland_cle.asp?ID=5

Students are invited to attend free of charge.

PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER FAIR

The Community Service Organization will host the Public Interest Career Fair on **April 10, 2007** from 10:30 to 1:00 in the Great Room. This is a great opportunity for people to meet with representatives from different organizations (including the FBI, Legal Aid, US Dept of Justice, just to name a few) and discuss what they do and, of course, inquire about possible intern and unpaid legal positions for the coming summer. As most of you already now, networking is essential in the job hunt, and a public interest volunteer summer job can be a great way to get experience and meet people in the legal field. **Pizza will be provided.**

2007 ALABAMA APPELLATE COURTS ORAL ARGUMENTS

The **Alabama Supreme Court** and the **Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals** will hold Oral Arguments at the Wright Center from 9:00 AM to NOON on Thursday, **April 12, 2007**. The event is co-hosted by Cumberland School of Law and the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

All Cumberland students are invited and urged to attend. Students are welcome to come and go as needed in order to accommodate class schedules. The schedule for the Oral Arguments is as follows:

9:00 – 9:25 AM

Call to Order:

Court Marshall Willie James
Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice,
Supreme Court Presiding

Introductions:

Judge John L. Carroll, Cumberland School of Law
Honorable J. Scott Vowell, Presiding Judge, Jefferson County
Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice,
Supreme Court

9:30 – 10:30 AM

Oral Arguments in Supreme Court Case
State of Alabama v. Abbott Laboratories, Inc., et al.

10:40 – 10:50 AM

Call to Order:
Court Marshall Willie James
Honorable Pamela W. Baschab, Presiding Judge,
Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding

Introductions:
Honorable J. Scott Vowell, Presiding Judge, Jefferson County
Honorable Pamela W. Baschab, Presiding Judge,
Court of Criminal Appeals

10:50 – 11:50 AM

Oral Arguments in Court of Criminal Appeals Case
Nathaniel Woods v. State of Alabama

11:50 AM

Courts Adjourn

To view summaries of the cases being heard on April 12th,
please point your internet browser to:

http://cumberland.samford.edu/cumberland_programs.asp?ID=918

ABA LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS

LaTara Johnson, 5th Circuit Governor for the ABA Law Student Division, is currently taking applications for Lieutenant Governors. Serving as a Lieutenant Governor is a wonderful way to get involved with the ABA on a national level. Online applications are available at:

<http://www.abanet.org/lsd/5thcircuit/home.html>.

The deadline to apply is **April 13, 2007**. Please email LaTara (ljohnso1@samford.edu) with any questions.

2007 ANNUAL HEALTHCARE, ETHICS AND LAW CONFERENCE

The Healthcare, Ethics and Law Institute (HEAL) of McWhorter

School of Pharmacy, will host its annual conference on Friday, **April 13, 2007** in Brock Forum, Dwight Beeson Hall from 8:20 AM to 3:30 PM. The conference, entitled “**Struggling with Improving End-of-Life Care: Is Talking about Medical Futility Futile?**” will bring in world class clinical ethicists who will be awarded the Pellegrino Medal for their contributions in healthcare issues.

An invitation is extended to faculty and students in Pharmacy, Law, Nursing, and Divinity to take advantage of the opportunity to hear these well-known ethicists. There is no registration fee for Samford faculty, staff and students.

MONDAY, APRIL 9

The University will be closed on Monday, April 9 for Easter weekend. Classes will resume Tuesday, April 10.
