

April 7, 2008

JUDGE JOHN L. CARROLL, DEAN

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CUMBERLAND'S AAJ NATIONAL TRIAL TEAM WINS 2008 NATIONAL TITLE

Congratulations to **Dillon Barker** (3L), **Lisha Li** (2L), **Julie McMakin** (2L), and **Anna Smith** (2L) for being the National Champions of the 2008 American Association for Justice National Student Trial Advocacy Competition. The competition began in March with fourteen regional rounds. Sixteen teams were in each regional competition. The winning team from each region advanced to the National Finals in West Palm Beach April 3 - 6. Cumberland's team was ranked 8th after the preliminaries and had to face the number 1 seed Temple in the quarter-finals. After defeating Temple, the team beat out Richmond in the semi-final round. The team drew the defense side for the final round and defeated South Texas for the National Title. The team was coached by **Mike Rasmussen**.

Other teams in the National Finals were Florida International University, Loyola University - Chicago, University of California - LA, Thomas M. Cooley, Suffolk University, University of Akron, Drake University, University of North Carolina, St. John's University, and University of California - Berkeley.



**Anna Smith, Dillon Barker, Lisha Li and Julie McMakin
#1 Student Trial Advocacy Team in the Country**

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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 during Alumni Weekend.

The winners of the award for this year are Professor **Beth Burch** (First Year Courses) and Professor **Brannon Denning** (Upper Level Courses).

Congratulations to Professors Burch and Denning!

LIGHTFOOT, FRANKLIN & WHITE FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Lightfoot, Franklin & White law firm under the leadership of Jere White '80 has endowed 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 winners of this year's awards are Professors **Marcia McCormick** and **Beth Burch** for the Junior Faculty Award and Professor **Bill Ross** for the Senior Faculty Award.

***Congratulations to
Professors McCormick, Burch and Ross!***

AWARDS

The following awards were presented at the Annual Alumni Gala Reception and Dinner held Friday evening at Ross Bridge Resort.

2008 FRIEND OF THE LAW SCHOOL

Bruce F. Rogers, a Birmingham native and graduate of the Vanderbilt University Law School, is Cumberland's **2008 Friend of the Law School**. While not a Cumberland alum, he spends

considerable time and energy on our behalf. Mr. Rogers, a partner in the law firm of Bainbridge, Mims, Rogers & Smith, LLP, is active in our On Campus Interview process. He volunteers with programs to recognize our Lawyer In Residence, solicit funds for honoring Governor Brewer through the Brewer Plaza Project, bring the Alabama Supreme Court and Appeals Courts to Samford for annual oral arguments and introduce visiting prospective students to Birmingham.

2008 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Scott A. Powell '78, a partner in the Birmingham firm of Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton LLP, is the **2008 Volunteer of the Year**. Mr. Powell just completed his term as President of the International Society of Barristers and just before that he served as President of the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association.

He has completed a two year term as Chair of the Cumberland School of Law Advisory Board where he has facilitated conversations between faculty, students and administration and led the Advisory Board to undertake the recognition of former Governor Albert P. Brewer through the creation of the *Martha F. and Albert P. Brewer Plaza* in front of the law school. Prior to serving as Chair of the Advisory Board, Mr. Powell was a member of the Cumberland School of Law Strategic Planning Committee and Chair of the Annual Fund.

2008 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

James F. "Jim" Morgan '69 from High Point, North Carolina is the recipient of the **2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award**. More than two dozen organizations from the North Carolina legislature to the High Point Economic Development Corporation have conferred honors on this lawyer-businessman-statesman.

In his almost four decades of service since leaving Cumberland, he has completed three terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives, served as president or chairman of over 70 organizations, and carried on an active law practice as managing partner of the firm Morgan, Herring, Morgan, Green, Rosenblatt & Gill, L.L.P.

OUTSTANDING FRIEND OF THE LAW SCHOOL

Mitzi S. Davis, Assistant Dean of Alumni Relations of Cumberland School of Law, was recognized Friday evening as the **Outstanding Friend of the Law School** for her many

accomplishments and dedication to the law school, and she received best wishes for her upcoming retirement.

Her career began as a teacher with special needs children in the Hinds County Mississippi School System. She began her association with the legal profession at the Jackson, Mississippi law firm of Watkins, Ludlum, Winter & Stennis where she initiated and developed the position of Director of Recruitment and Associate Development. After eight years with the firm, Dean Parham Williams, who had met the "Watkins Ludlum recruiter" when she came to Oxford to interview students at the Ole Miss law school, invited her to organize and improve the recruitment program at Cumberland.

Dean Davis' energy and organizational skills quickly grew the applicant pool and reputation of Cumberland. In the past twenty years, she has read over 30,000 files, signed over 8,000 admissions letters and welcomed over 4,000 new students. In 1998, Dean Barry Currier asked her to assume responsibility for the Alumni office in addition to the Admissions office. The alumni program was re-invigorated and participation by alumni began to grow. Cumberland Clubs were organized and alumni involvement has grown.

As her husband, **Richard Davis '89**, said of Mitzi, "She has never been involved in anything that she didn't make better."

ELECTION RESULTS

SBA OFFICERS

President: Jessica Thomas
Vice President: Mi Wu
Secretary: Chandra Paul
Treasurer: Daniel Milton

SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

President: Alan Kirk
Vice President: Sheena Allen
Secretary: Megan Head
Treasurer: Larry Young

SENIOR HONOR COURT JUSTICES

Lew Belvin
Carin Brown
Graham Floyd
Drew Isom

Megan Stephens
Matt Tynan

JUNIOR HONOR COURT JUSTICES

Taylor Bartlett
Andrew Brasher
Stewart Civils
Shannon Hardin
Seth Hunter
Ashley Reitz

2L SBA REPRESENTATIVES

Roderick Evans
Kiel Gross
Courtney Peinhardt
Tripp Watson

ABA CHAIR

Jason Pointer

ABA VICE-CHAIR

Matthew Davis

Congratulations to everyone!

**WOMEN IN LAW
2008-09 EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Congratulations to the following women who were selected for the Women in Law Executive Board for the 2008-09 academic year:

President: Chandra Paul
Vice President: BriTonya Banks
Secretary: Kathryn Varner
Treasurer: Stacie Irwin

**CORDELL HULL SPEAKER'S
FORUM NEW MEMBERS**

It is with great pleasure that I announce the new members for the Cordell Hull Speaker's Forum for 2008-09. Please join me in congratulating these esteemed individuals as they bring the Speaker's Forum to new heights in the coming year.

Alex Ealy
Roderick Evans
Felicia Harris-Daniels
Daniel Milton
Megan Mitchler
Stephen Rygiel
Scott Sasser
Ryan Stringfellow
Danielle Touart
Jamee York

"I am certain that, however great the hardships and the trials which loom ahead, our America will endure and the cause of human freedom will triumph." – Cordell Hull

*- Jared Kerr-
Chair of Cordell Hull Speaker's Forum*

3L BARBEQUE LUNCH

Cumberland's faculty, staff and the Class of 2008 are invited to join the Office of Career Services for a Barbeque Lunch on Tuesday, **April 8** in the **Great Room** from **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**.

Jim and Nick's will provide the food and admission is **free**. Career Services is sponsoring this luncheon to congratulate the Class of 2008 on their completion of law school.

PRESIDENT'S ROUNDTABLE MEETING

The President's Roundtable meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 9**, at **11:00 AM** in the Dean's Conference Room. All Presidents (incoming and outgoing) are requested to attend. Transition papers for next year will be completed.

LAW REVIEW INFORMATION SESSION

The Cumberland Law Review is hosting an information session on Thursday, **April 10**, at **11:00 AM** in the Great Room for all first year students interested in the Law Review. All first year students are encouraged to attend to learn more about the Cumberland Law Review or how to become a member. You

are required to attend this meeting to be eligible for Law Review candidacy. **Lunch will be served.**

If you have any questions about the Cumberland Law Review or the information session, please contact Alyson Cantrell at alcantre@samford.edu.

TENNESSEE STUDENT BAR MEETING FOR OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Tennessee Student Bar will hold its monthly meeting this Thursday, **April 10** at **4:30 PM** in **room 120** of Robinson Hall. At this month's meeting, nominations will be received for the 2008-09 officer board. T-shirts will be distributed. Any Bar member who is unable to attend should email president Dillon Barker at diezba@gmail.com regarding the nomination process and inform secretary Matt Claiborne at mclaibo@samford.edu of his absence.

COLLOQUIUM

Professor **Ed Martin** will speak to the faculty on Thursday, **April 10** at **11:00 AM** in the Dean's Conference Room. The topic of his presentation will be *"Creating and Developing Online Resources to Provide Academic Support for Law Students."*

Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Carolyn Tompkins by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, April 9 if you plan to attend.

Mrs. Tompkins' contact information is:

726.2411 or ctompkin@samford.edu

WORKS IN PROGRESS PROGRAM

This Friday, **April 11** at **noon** in the Dean's Conference Room, **Andrea Dennis**, Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Kentucky College of Law, will make a presentation to the Cumberland faculty. For more information on Professor Dennis, please follow this link:

<http://www.uky.edu/Law/faculty/adennis.html>

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

2008 ALABAMA APPELLATE COURTS ORAL ARGUMENTS

The **Alabama Supreme Court** and the **Alabama Court of Civil Appeals** will hold Oral Arguments at the **Wright Center** from 9:00 AM to NOON on Thursday, **April 17, 2008**. 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.

FACULTY NEWS

PROFESSOR HOWARD WALTHALL

Professor **Howard Walthall** recently spoke to the University of Texas Executive MBA program on "*Selection of Business Entity.*"

PROFESSOR MARCIA MCCORMICK

On Friday, April 4, Professor **Marcia McCormick** spoke at a federal courts conference at American University, Washington College of Law on the future of Federal Courts.

PROFESSOR WENDY GREENE

Professor **Wendy Greene** will be attending the Southeast/Southwest People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, April 9 – 13, 2008. The conference is sponsored by North Carolina Central School of Law.

PROFESSOR JOSEPH SNOE

Professor **Joseph Snoe's** article, *ERISA Preemption: A Product Rule and the Neglected Workhorse*, has been published as the lead article in the *Journal of Health & Biomedical Law* 217-265.

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

I am pleased to announce **Jennifer Sims** has been named Director of Admissions for Cumberland School of Law. She is a

2001 Cumberland graduate and has been working with us in admissions since 2004. She will do a great job as the Director. Please join me in congratulating Jennifer on this well-deserved promotion.

-Judge John Carroll-

SPRING 2008 EXAM PROCEDURES & DEADLINES

Spring 2008 exam procedures will be essentially the same as last semester. The complete Spring 2008 Exam Policies & Procedures (including information about alternate exam times and use of laptops) is posted on the law school website ("Exam Information" under the "Academics" menu). Some highlights and critical deadlines, however, are set forth here.

Alternate Exam Times: As before, students do not have a "right" to take an exam at an alternate exam time, but professors have discretion to allow them to do so at one of three scheduled alternate exam times, provided the required procedures are followed:

- 1) the student must receive permission from his or her professor by **April 21**, and
- 2) the professor must submit the necessary materials to the Office of the Associate Dean by **April 22**.

The available alternate exam times are:

Friday, April 25 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3 from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Using Laptop Computers on Exams:

Students must **download the NEW VERSION of Extegrity**, take a practice test, and practice submitting the practice test wirelessly. Students then may report to the designated computer exam room on the appropriate date. Exams taken on computer **must be submitted via the wireless network**.

Exam Day Arrival:

Students should report to their exam rooms **15 minutes before the scheduled start time** and follow the directions written on the board.

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Law commencement will be held in the Wright Center on the Samford campus on Saturday, **May 17** at **3:00 PM**. A representative of the Samford University Bookstore will come to the law school on **April 8** from **1:00** to **4:00 PM** in the **Florida Room** to measure the class for caps and gowns. Anyone who was unable to attend the Graduation Expo should make plans to stop by at that time.

Please contact **Mrs. Pam Nelson**, Director of Student Services, with questions.

2008 SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

Cumberland 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 academic year. The recognition comes in the form of the ***Spirit of Service Award*** (a certificate suitable for framing) and an appreciation event. This year, the event will be a law school ice cream social, held on **April 17, 2008** on the East Patio. The certificates will be presented at that time.

You are encouraged to apply for the award. Examples of qualifying work include Street Law, VITA, Teen Court, Legal Services, work done through 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 and operates on the honor system. Contact Ms. Jeanette Lincecum at jmlincec@samford.edu for an electronic copy of the application. Completed applications should be emailed to ccmc@samford.edu or a hard copy delivered to Ms. Lincecum in Room 202.

The deadline is April 7, 2008.

2008 SUMMER STIPENDS PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP

Summer stipends are available to students who will commit to

performing 8 to 10 weeks of *otherwise uncompensated* public interest or public service legal work in the Greater Birmingham area during the summer of 2008. Some resources are available for placement outside of Birmingham. Placement outside the greater Birmingham area and Alabama will be considered for the stipend award.

Please see Ms. Jeanette Lincecum in room 202 or Ms. Cassandra Adams in room 209 for more information and an application. If you are interested in being a part of this program open to all 1L and 2L students, please complete the application and return it either via email to ccmc@samford.edu or delivering it to Cassandra Adams, Room 209, Community Mediation Center (inside the Great Room).

Applications are due April 7, 2008.

If you have questions or would like to discuss development of a placement, Mrs. Adams can be reached at 726-4257.

VITA

The window to participate in VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) through Cumberland's partnership with SaveFirst closed February 17, but students can still volunteer individually or in informal groups as part of Cumberland's independent VITA effort! Through VITA, students can assist low-income taxpayers with tax form preparation, providing a needed service to the community while honing their client interaction skills. The active VITA site closest to Samford is (according to the IRS):

Multicultural Resource Center
2231 Victory Lane
Birmingham, AL 35216
Open 2/11-4/14

Appointment Required (for clients)
205-987-4771

Online certification (training) possible for volunteers.
Carmen is the contact person.

I have talked with Carmen on the phone and she will welcome Cumberland volunteers, and she can be reached at the number above. Students who completed their training through SaveFirst should be ready to go; students who have not completed training can complete the online certification at the MCR site after reviewing the training books (also available on site). Alternatively, students still looking for training can call 1-800-829-1040 and the IRS procedural area can refer you to the local post of duty site and supervisor for more information.

There is an additional site operating at:

New Hope Community Development Federal Credit Union
1741 Jefferson Avenue
Birmingham, AL 35211

Open 1/15-4/14
Appointment Required (for clients)
205-923-3866

If that site is more convenient, I encourage students to contact them. Please feel free to contact me (Professor DiRusso) for help or more information.

Professor Alyssa DiRusso
aadiruss@samford.edu
