



E-Newsletter

April 14, 2008

JUDGE JOHN L. CARROLL, DEAN

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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. The schedule for the Oral Arguments is as follows:

9:00 to 9:25 AM

Call to Order:

Court Marshall Willie James

Honorable Sue Bell Cobb,
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

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:

*Vulcan Lincoln Mercury, Royal Automotive, Saturn,
et. al v. City of Vestavia*

- 2008-09 Alabama Defense Lawyers Association
- 2008-09 Trial Advocacy Board
- 2008-09 Black Law Students Association Officers
- Spring 2008 Exam Procedures & Deadlines
- Brewer Plaza
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

10:40 – 10:50 AM

Call to Order:

Court Marshall Willie James

Honorable William C. Thompson,
Presiding Judge, Court of Civil Appeals

Introductions:

Honorable J. Scott Vowell,
Presiding Judge, Jefferson County

Honorable William C. Thompson,
Presiding Judge, Court of Civil Appeals

10:50 – 11:50 AM

Oral Arguments in Court of Civil Appeals Case:
South Alabama Skills Training Consortium v. Ford

11:50 AM

Courts Adjourn

To view summaries of the cases being heard on April 17th,
Please point your internet browser to:

Supreme Court Summary

<http://www.samford.edu/schools/law/supreme%20court%20summary%2008.pdf>

Civil Appeals Summary

<http://www.samford.edu/schools/law/civil%20appeals%20summary.pdf>

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION NATIONAL APPELLATE ADVOCACY COMPETITION

The Cumberland community is very proud of the team of **Nicole Leet, John Nelson** and **Brad Howell**. They represented the school and the Moot Court program well at the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition held April 3 – 5 in Chicago. Our team received their awards for Regional Winner and third best brief at the Awards Brunch. Thanks to all who helped the team prepare for the national finals.

CUMBERLAND SOFTBALL CLUB

Cumberland School of Law sent two teams to the 25th Anniversary of the annual **Virginia Law Softball Invitational**, April 4 - 6. This year's tournament had 112 teams from 49 different law schools participating. Both of Cumberland's teams worked very hard to prepare and played well this year. The weekend was a big success and great exposure for Cumberland.

The Cumberland Men's team consisted of the following students; **Justin Kelly, Matt Seymore, Adam Russell, Preston Neel, Jon Williams, Ty Brown, Patrick Johnson, Buck Burriss, Josh King, Matt Laymon, Drew King, and Justin Owens.**

The Cumberland Co-ed team consisted of; **Rebecca Lee, Kasey Culbreath, Cynthia Gilmer, Leah Parker, Lindsay Hale, Tanya Solomon, Adam Baker, Mike Alfano, Taylor Meadows, Justin Stockman, Drew Herring, and Alan Kirk.**

This year's trip to the tournament was a great success and fun for all who participated.

FACULTY / STAFF APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Please join the Cumberland Law Review for a Faculty and Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Thursday, **April 17, 2008, 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM** in the Dean's Conference Room.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARDS

Every year, Cumberland recognizes students, staff and faculty who have performed 30 hours or more of public interest legal work, community service or public service during the academic year.

The 2007-08 awardees will gather, with the school's faculty and staff, on the East Patio (Angel Patio) on Thursday, **April 17, 2008 at 1:00 PM** for the awarding of certificates and to enjoy ice cream treats. In the event of rain, the celebration will take place in the Great Room.

For this academic year, there are 25 award recipients:

Sara Amos
John Bowles
Carin Brown
Laura Cade
Judge Carroll
Alicia Duffin
Matthew Dye
Bailey Gladden
Shannon Hardin
Laura Herndon
Stacie Irwin
Justin Kelly
Jared Kerr

Eddie Koen
Nicole Leet
Brandi Maiorino
Tondra Moore
Pam Nelson
Lena Pearson
Stephen Rygiel
Christina Saunders
David Smolin
Kathryn Varner
Margaret Ware
LaVone Warren

FACULTY PRESENTATION

Professor **Howard Walthall** will give a colloquia presentation Friday, **April 18**, at **11:00 AM** in the Dean's Conference Room. His topic will be "*Corporate/Transactional Basics: Law, Micro-Brewing, and The Floo-Floo Bird –The Saga of Jake, Sharon, and Bill.*"

Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to **Carolyn Tompkins** by 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 17 if you plan to attend.

Mrs. Tompkins' contact information is:

726.2411 or ctompkin@samford.edu

THE LANGUM PROJECT FOR HISTORICAL LITERATURE

Kurt Andersen has won the 2007 David J. Langum, Sr. Prize in American Historical Fiction for his best-selling novel "Heyday" (Random House). Mr. Andersen is a columnist for New York magazine and host of "Studio 360" on public radio.

The Langum Project was founded by **David J. Langum, Sr.**, Research Professor at Cumberland School of Law.

For more information about the Project, please visit the link below:

<http://www.langumtrust.org/histlit.htm>

CASSANDRA ADAMS

Cassandra W. Adams, Director of the Cumberland Community Mediation Center and Public Interest Projects, attended the 10th Annual ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference in Seattle, Washington, April 3 – 5, 2008, titled “*Sound Perspectives on ADR.*”

Ms. Adams will attend the 2008 Equal Justice Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 5 – 9, 2008. The conference focuses on the ABA accreditation Standard 302(b)(2) which requires that law schools provide substantial opportunities for student participation in *pro bono* activities. Ms. Adams will also attend a pre-conference seminar titled “Challenging Questions and Practical Solutions for Law School Pro Bono Programs,” a comprehensive program for law school *pro bono* and public interest advisors.

BIOTECH CENTER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The **Center for Biotechnology, Law, and Ethics** is inviting student applications for the position of Biotech Fellow.

Biotech Fellows receive a \$5,000 annual fellowship. **Jared Kerr** and **David Rohwedder** have served as this year's Biotech Fellows; Jared is graduating but David will be continuing for a second year of service. We are recruiting rising second year students (current first year students) for the one open Biotech Fellow position. Under current funding, there is one Biotech Fellow from each class.

The Fellow selected would begin their work during the summer, although most of the work is done during the fall and spring semesters. It is not necessary for the Fellow to be present in Birmingham this summer, as e-mail and other means of communication can be used. This position is designed to be compatible with the student's involvement in other responsibilities, including classes, clerkships, student organizations, etc. At the same time, it is best if students have an interest in this area, because there will be some commitment of time.

Biotech Fellows join the Biotech Team in performing the work of the Biotech Center. Team members include the Biotech Fellows, a Symposium Law Review Editor, Biotech Research Associates (explained below), and Professor David Smolin, Director of the Center.

Biotech Team members perform research and writing related to biotechnology and bioethics issues; plan and execute the annual Biotech conference; organize the Center Offices; attend weekly Biotech team meetings during the fall and spring semesters; and assist with the web site.

Biotech Research Associates perform the same tasks as Biotech Fellows, but due to funding limitations do not receive a Fellowship. All Cumberland students are eligible to participate in the Biotech Center as Biotech Research Associates. No formal application for Biotech Research Associate positions are required, other than letting Professor Smolin know of your interest.

Applicants for the Biotech Fellow position should submit a résumé and a short statement of interest to the Dean's assistant, Kathy Walton, by Thursday, April 24th. The short statement should describe any relevant background, and the reason for the student's interest. A selection committee will review the applications and choose the successful candidate.

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Smolin at dmsmolin@samford.edu, or 726.2418.

2008-09 CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

Congratulations to the following individuals who were selected as Christian Legal Society Officers for the 2008-09 academic year:

Co-Presidents

Shannon Elliott and Chris Burge

Vice-President

Patrick King

Treasurer/Secretary

Kristen DeBoise

Public Relations/Community Service Chair

Mark Robinson and Kimberly King

Social Chair

Matt Claiborne

Chaplains

Lauren Ellison and Chris Reid

**2008-09
FEDERALIST SOCIETY OFFICERS**

Co-Presidents

Zach Alsobrook and John Ellis

Secretary/Treasurer

Eric McGilvray

**2008-09
PHI ALPHA DELTA
OFFICERS**

Justice

Kasey Culbreath

Vice-Justice

Cliff Nelson

Treasurer

James Wright

Clerk

Rachel Wright

Marshall

Lauren Goodson

**2008-09
LAW HONOR COURT
JUSTICES**

Congratulations to the newly elected 2008-09 Chief Justice and Deputy Justice of the Cumberland School of Law Honor Court.

Chief Justice

Matthew Tynan

Deputy Justice

Carin Brown

**2008-09
LAW, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SOCIETY OFFICERS**

President
Meg Demeranville

Vice President
Kristen DeBoise

Secretary
Onekki Jolly

Treasurer
Kelly Wallace

CUMBERLAND REPUBLICANS

New elected officers for the Cumberland Republicans
are as follows:

President
Drew Isom

Vice-President
Joel Blankenship

Secretary
Trey Taylor

Treasurer
Henry Schenker

Communications Coordinator
Meg Demeranville

**2008-09
TENNESSEE STUDENT BAR
OFFICERS**

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Tennessee
Student Bar for the 2008-09 school year:

President
Kenneth Hamburg

Vice-President
Brittany Adkins

Secretary
Megan Mitchler

Treasurer
Coe Peterson

Social Chair
Whitney Henry

2008-09
ALABAMA DEFENSE LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to the new 2008-09 ADLA officers.

President
Justin Owen

Vice-President
Michael Renta

Secretary
Ryan Stringfellow

Treasurer
Meg Demeranville

2008-09
TRIAL ADVOCACY BOARD

Congratulations to the
2008-09 Cumberland Trial Advocacy Board.

Chief Judge
Julie McMakin

Director, Parham Williams Freshmen Trial Competition
William Scully

Associate Director, Parham Williams Freshmen Trial Competition

Megan Stephens

Director, James Haley Federal Trial Competition

Megan Head

Associate Director, James Haley Federal Trial Competition

Janice Ballard

Director, Peterson National Trial Team Competition

Jamie Coston

Director, Governor Brewer Client Counseling Competition

Joel Blankenship

Director, Mediation Competition

Summer McWhorter

Director, Negotiation Competition

Lisha Li

Director, Arbitration Competition

Andy Robinson

General Members

Sheena Allen

Matthew Claiborne

Shannon Elliott

Lucas Griffin

Alan Kirk

Taylor Meadows

Jenna Mullendore

**2008-09
BLACK LAW STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**

The 2008-09 Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
Executive Board is as follows:

President

Sheena Allen

Vice-President

Sharna Etinoffe

Treasurer
Menyian Woodall

Secretary
Jennifer Vester

Parliamentarian
Roderick Evans

1L Liaison
Lakeita Rox

Thurgood Marshall Chair
Roderick Evans

Community Service Chair
BriTonya Banks

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:

- The student must receive permission from his or her professor by **April 21**, and
- 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 PM
- Wednesday, April 30 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM
- Saturday, May 3 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM

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.

BREWER PLAZA

APRIL 9, 2008





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
