

## Called to the Bar Speaker President of the Alabama State Bar

Tom Methvin, a Cumberland graduate of the Class of 1988, managing shareholder of the Montgomery law firm of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis & Miles, P.C. and the president of the Alabama State Bar for the year of 2009-10, will speak to first year law students at the *Called to the Bar* program scheduled Wednesday, **October 7 at noon** in the Moot Court Room.



TOM METHVIN

The topic of his presentation will be "Access to Justice."

1L Attendance is Mandatory

## 1L Election Results

### HONOR COURT JUSTICES

Evan Clark  
Jim Denham  
Katie Fogo  
Heather Retchless  
Breanne Stanley  
Meg Williamson

### SBA REPRESENTATIVES

Katie Bondurant  
Ryan Letson  
Samantha Nicolle  
Brittany Stancombe

## Haley Trial Competition Finalists

Joshua Wrady and Nicholas Gonzalez  
v.  
Ryan Stringfellow and Jessica Brown

You are invited to watch the final competition tonight, October 5, at 6:00 PM in the Moot Courtroom in:

*The State of Lonestar v. Kelly Taylor*



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## 2009 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, October 8, 2009. The event is co-hosted by Cumberland School of Law and the Birmingham Bar Foundation, the charitable arm of the Birmingham Bar Association.

All Cumberland students are invited and urged to attend. Students are welcome to come and go as needed in order to accommodate class schedules.

### Schedule for the Oral Arguments

Thursday, October 8, 2009



8:30 - 9:00 AM	Attendee and Student Arrival and Seating - Samford Wright Center Auditorium
9:10 - 9:25 AM	<p>Call to Order: Court Marshall Willie James Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice, Supreme Court</p> <p>Introductions: Dean John L. Carroll, Cumberland School of Law Honorable J. Scott Vowell, Presiding Judge, Jefferson County Honorable Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice, Supreme Court</p>
9:30 - 10:30 AM	<p>Oral Arguments in Supreme Court Case: <i>Andrew Miller et al. v. Bob Riley et al.</i></p>
10:40- 10:50 AM	<p>Call to Order: Court Marshall Willie James Honorable Alisa Kelli Wise, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals</p> <p>Introductions: Honorable J. Scott Vowell, Presiding Judge, Jefferson County Honorable Alisa Kelli Wise, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals</p>
10:50 - 11:50 AM	<p>Oral Arguments in Court of Criminal Appeals Case: <i>Demetrius Avery Jackson v. State of Alabama</i></p>
11:50 AM	Courts Adjourn & Students Dismissed

ALL CUMBERLAND STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

ORAL ARGUMENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



## 2009 Race for the Cure

Please join Women in Law for the annual Susan G. Komen Birmingham Race for the Cure, a nationwide event to raise funds and awareness about breast cancer, on **Saturday, October 10** at Linn Park. The race is a 5K (3.1 mile) run/walk and 1 mile fun run/walk. If you are not interested in running or cannot be present at the event, you can still join the team and "Sleep for the Cure." Last year, we surpassed our goal of 75 members and would like to do the same this year.

All students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate in this very worthwhile cause. You are also welcome to invite friends or family members to join in the fundraising efforts by participating on the "Cumberland Law" team. For students, this is a great way to meet new classmates and support a good cause. Visit <http://www.komenncalabama.org/> and search for Cumberland School of Law team to register and help the fight against breast cancer.

*In addition, there will be special awards for those who can run faster than the Dean!*

## Cumberland Book Clubs

*The Law School*

SIGN-UP ONLINE

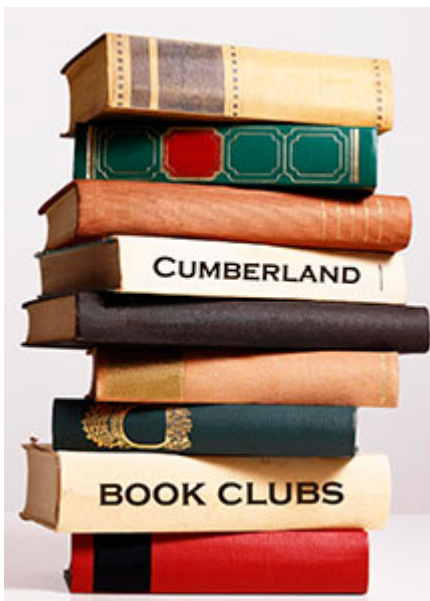
*Will Reimburse You*

<http://cumberland.samford.edu/bookclub>

*for the*

DEADLINE: October 12, 2009

*Cost of Your Book*



Innocence

Leader: Cassandra Adams

Touchstone Magazine  
(Reader's Group)

Leader: Greg Laughlin

Outcasts United

Leader: John Carroll

Brave New World

Leader: Dayna Royal

A Collection of Children's  
Books: I Love a Lawyer,  
Rules and Laws, and A Day in  
Court with Mrs. Trinh

Leader: Alyssa DiRusso

The Noticer

Leader: Lynn Schuck

A Sand County Almanac

Leader: Bob Greene

One Quarter of Humanity:  
Malthusian Mythology and  
Chinese Realities,  
1700 - 2000

Leader: David Smolin

Let's Get Free:

A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice

Leader: Wendy Greene

Killer Angels

Leader: Howard Walthall

## Alabama Defense Lawyers Association Meeting

STUDENT DIVISION

FIRST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

4:15 PM

ROOM 123

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact:

Christopher Yearout

[cyearout@samford.edu](mailto:cyearout@samford.edu)

## Student Health Lawyers Association

No other field of law can match the magnitude, complexity, and universality of health care law. Health care accounts for over 17% of our nation's gross domestic product, and this number continues to rise. Legal jobs available in the health care sector are endless and exist in a wide variety of settings, including local, state, and federal regulatory agencies, private health care facilities, insurance companies, and law firms, to name a few. Cumberland's Student Health Lawyers Association is a chapter affiliated with American Health Lawyers Association, the nation's largest nonpartisan, educational organization devoted to legal issues in the healthcare field with more than 10,000 members.

If you are interested in learning more about this diverse and dynamic area of law, please join Cumberland's Student Health Lawyers Association on October 8th, 2009, at noon in Room 120.

## Lunch with Advisory Board Members

Friday, October 23, 2009

11:45 AM • Brewer Plaza

Sponsored by: Lightfoot, Franklin & White, Starnes & Atchison, and White, Arnold & Dowd



CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW'S ADVISORY BOARD

Cumberland's Advisory Board has graciously invited law students to this luncheon to meet and socialize with the members and ask questions. Bring your résumé! What a fantastic opportunity to meet these incredibly generous and smart lawyers (alumni) who provide us so much support!

Any questions?  
Contact the Alumni Office at:

<http://cumberland.samford.edu/alumni/advisory-board>


726.2444 or [lcMcCagh@samford.edu](mailto:lcMcCagh@samford.edu)

## Birmingham Area Multicultural Pre-law Student Reception

The Admissions Office is pleased to announce that it will be hosting its inaugural Birmingham Area Multicultural Pre-law Student Reception on Thursday, October 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Community Meeting Room.

At this event, pre-law students are invited to listen to alumni and faculty speakers relay their personal stories and provide information intended to help prospective law students reach their professional goals, beginning with a discussion on how to make the transition from college student to practicing lawyer. Attendees are invited to enjoy catered hors-de-oeuvres and mingle with those speakers and representatives from the law school, who will be on-hand to answer any and all questions and share information regarding Cumberland's strong commitment to diversity.

Attendance is free, but a response is required. Please contact Christy Sherbrook to RSVP or for more information at [csherbr@samford.edu](mailto:csherbr@samford.edu).



### Admissions Office Open House

On Friday, October 16, the Admissions Office will host an Open House for prospective law students. Those students interested in gaining admission to the Fall 2010 entering class are invited to come learn about Cumberland from its faculty and students, tour our facilities, and experience firsthand what law school is really like. Cumberland's 2009 and 2010 Open Houses begin at 10:30 AM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Robinson Hall in the Murfee Courtroom. The program will conclude at noon.

To RSVP, please e-mail Mary Ashley Powell at [mpowell@samford.edu](mailto:mpowell@samford.edu).

## Faculty News

### PROFESSOR DAVID M. BENCK

David M. Benck, Vice President & General Counsel of Hibbett Sporting Goods, Inc., will be teaching a seminar at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Association of Corporate Counsel in Boston, MA the week of October 19, 2009. The course will teach corporate counsel how to address the legal benefits, risks and liabilities companies face in coping with the emergence of social media networks.

### JUDGE JOHN L. CARROLL

Judge John L. Carroll was one of the presenters at the Judicial Roundtable Program offered as part of the mid-year meeting of Working Group I of the Sedona Conference in Atlanta on October 1 and 2. The Sedona Conference is a complex litigation think tank, and Working Group I focuses on issues relating to the preservation and production of Electronically Stored Information. Judge Carroll serves on the Sedona Conference Advisory Board and on its Board of Directors.

## Cordell Hull Speakers Forum

Mr. **Barry W. Lynn** will be the guest speaker at the Cordell Hull Speakers Forum scheduled Thursday, **October 15, 2009** at 7:00 PM in the Moot Courtroom. The topic of his presentation will be, "A Day Without Separation of Church and State."



BARRY LYNN

Mr. Lynn is executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a position he has held since October of 1992. He has appeared frequently on television and radio broadcasts - including *The MacNeil-Lehrer Report*, *Nightline*, NBC's *Today Show*, *Meet the Press*, CNN's *Crossfire* and *Larry King Live* to discuss church/state issues. He is co-author of *The Right to Religious Liberty: The Basic ACLU Guide to Religious Rights*, and served as legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union. He holds a law degree from Georgetown University and a theology degree from Boston University. Lynn is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

## Cumberland Takes the Lead: For Getting the Word Out About Alabama's New DNA Legislation

Last month, Cumberland's Public Interest Program launched the DNA Legislation Research Project. Staffed by Cumberland Pro Bono Graduate Fellows and Law Student Research Assistants, the research project requires the volunteers to review the records of more than 800 Alabama inmates to determine who has been convicted of a capital crime and is eligible under the recently passed Alabama DNA Legislation to file a motion to obtain testing of the DNA evidence used in connection with their conviction.

The first level of the research project was completed by law students, Hannah Mebane and Josh Reif, during their summer Pro Bono Internship at the law firm of Baker Donelson. Mebane and Reif started by completing the huge task of compiling the list of inmates who received Life Without Parole (LWOP). This LWOP list contained 1,400 names. Then, Mebane and Reif structured the process for reviewing each inmate on the list of 1,400 to determine whether they were sentenced for a capital offense. The process that Mebane and Reif developed is now being continued by the Graduate Fellows and Research Assistants working on the project. Once all the inmates are identified, their legal counsel will be notified of the legislation and the impending deadline to file a motion (August 2010) or a volunteer lawyer will be recruited to represent the inmate.



CUMBERLAND'S DNA LEGISLATION PRO BONO TEAM

Judge **John L. Carroll** stated, "This is important work and I am glad we have some graduates and students willing to do it." He met with the research team and thanked them for volunteering and answered some criminal process questions.

The team is working with **Lisa Borden**, Pro Bono Shareholder, Baker Donelson, and Cumberland faculty members **LaJuana Davis** and **Cassandra Adams**.



## Pro Bono Week

Cassandra Adams, Director, Cumberland Community Mediation Center and Public Interest Project, serves on the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Celebration Task Force for the year 2009-2010. The Task Force is charged with planning and implementing Alabama's activities for the first-ever National Pro Bono Celebration which occurs the week of October 25-31, 2009. Cumberland's activities for National Pro Bono Week are:

**Tuesday, October 27, 2009 - Senior Citizen Law Clinics** - Local attorneys, law students and paralegals will provide free services to assist the senior citizens (age 60+) of the Birmingham area in preparing simple wills, advanced health directives and powers of attorney. The clinics will be held at the Fairfield Senior Center, the Southside Baptist Senior Center and the Center Point Senior Center.

**Thursday, October 29, 2009 - Lovelady Center Clinic** - Local attorneys, law students and paralegals will assist women residing at the Lovelady Center with their legal issues (mainly criminal and family law).

**Thursday, October 29, 2009 - Volunteer Reception** - Hosted at Baker Donelson - a reception for volunteer attorneys, law students and paralegals.

Law students interested in volunteering to work for a couple of hours at one of the four Law Clinics should email [ccmc@samford.edu](mailto:ccmc@samford.edu) as soon as possible.

For more information about Pro Bono Week, please visit this Website:

[www.alabar.org/ProBonoWeek](http://www.alabar.org/ProBonoWeek)

## Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award

Two Cumberland Alumni have provided a generous gift to endow the *Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award*. Two awards are given annually - one to a professor who teaches first year courses and one to a professor who teaches upper level courses. The winners are chosen by a joint faculty-student committee. The winners in 2009 were Professor Brad Bishop (First Year Courses) and Professor Alyssa DiRusso (Upper Level Courses). The winners in 2008 were Professor Beth Burch (First Year Courses) and Professor Brannon Denning (Upper Level Courses). The winners in 2007 were Professor Ed Martin (First Year Courses) and Professor Marcia McCormick (Upper Level Courses).

Any Cumberland student or faculty member may nominate a professor for the award by sending a letter or e-mail to the Dean which explains how the nominee meets the criteria for the award which are (1) mastery of the subject matter; (2) ability to convey information effectively to students; (3) demonstrated enthusiasm for teaching; (4) commitment to excellence in the classroom; (5) innovation in teaching techniques and (6) commitment to students.

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*From previous page (Jackson Teaching Award)*

*Please take time to nominate a professor for this important award.*

*In your nomination, please specify which award you are nominating a professor for - the First Year Award or the Upper Level Award.*

*Nominations are due by the last day of class of the fall semester.*

*Please submit nominations via e-mail to [carroll@samford.edu](mailto:carroll@samford.edu).*

## “Establishing a Law Practice” Series

### PROGRAMS SPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR CLASS OF 2009

Cumberland is pleased to announce a series of three Continuing Legal Education programs designed specifically for the Class of 2009. The programs will provide recent graduates with guidance on beginning their law practice. These programs are available to anyone who wants to attend, but the registration fee will be waived for members of Cumberland’s Class of 2009. The programs, co-sponsored by Cumberland’s Career Services Office and Continuing Legal Education Office, will be offered at the law school on October 9, October 16 and November 2.

Although members of the Class of 2009 are not required to earn CLE credit this year, these hours may be carried over to next year. This is an easy way to get ahead on required CLE credits at no cost.

These CLE programs will be invaluable to those considering solo practice or working for a small firm, but will also be beneficial (particularly the first program) to all new lawyers who are just beginning to practice. The speakers are lawyers who have been successful in building their own practices.

The programs will offer many benefits, including:

- An introduction to practice in areas in which new attorneys often work
- Tips from judges and practitioners on setting up a law practice, getting and keeping clients, setting and discussing fees, limiting expenses, and networking with potential clients
- Resources available to you through the Alabama State Bar, the Small Business Administration and other organizations
- Networking with practicing attorneys and former classmates

#### Registration:

You may register for one program or all three, at NO COST. If you want to attend, please register by calling the Cumberland CLE Office at 205-726-2391 or 800-888-7454. Please do not try to register via the CLE website.

Online registration requires a registration fee, and this program is being offered to you at no charge.





## Continuing Legal Education

Cumberland's CLE department wants to remind students and faculty that you may attend any of Cumberland's CLE programs for free or a modest \$20-30 fee for handout materials and lunch. (The cost varies according to the program).

The fall schedule can be found on the Cumberland website under the CLE tab (<http://cumberland.samford.edu/cle>). Please notify the CLE office in advance if you wish to attend a program.



Email [lawcle@samford.edu](mailto:lawcle@samford.edu), call extension 2391, or stop by the CLE office to register.

UPCOMING EVENTS • CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

Please follow the link for a list of upcoming events:

<http://cumberland.samford.edu/events-list>

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1847

WHERE GOOD PEOPLE BECOME EXCEPTIONAL LAWYERS