

## Governor Albert P. Brewer Client Counseling Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Governor Albert P. Brewer Client Counseling Competition:

Sherri Peace-Gordon and Michelle Ortiz

Also, congratulations to the fellow finalists:

Matthew Bracey and Zach LeFleur



MATTHEW BRACEY, ZACH LEFLEUR, MICHELLE ORTIZ AND SHERRI PEACE-GORDON

## AJTA Welcomes New Members

The Editorial Board and members of the American Journal of Trial Advocacy are pleased to welcome the following new members. These 2L students earned Journal membership with the successful completion of the Journal's Third Semester Writing Program.

Christine R. Baylet  
Frank Tucker Burge  
Martin H. Drake  
Stacy Farmer  
Kristin L. Jeffreys  
Meredith W. Nobles  
Jeffrey Lance Smith  
Brandon M. Zimmerman



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## 2010 Cambridge Summer Study-Abroad Program



SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE • UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Our planning continues for the 2010 Cambridge Summer Study-Abroad Program, and we hope you seriously consider participating. Professor Floyd and Erin Carroll also welcome your questions about the program at any time, and further information is available at:

<http://www.cumberland.samford.edu/students/foreign-programs>

Click on the blue Cambridge link for the full brochure (in pdf format) which has an application form and a detailed calendar at the end. You may submit your application to either Professor Floyd (Room 220-B) or Erin Carroll (Room 220-A).

As an add-on prior to attending the Cambridge program, a limited number of students have the opportunity to do directed research in London in June 2010 with Barrister Adrian Jenkala. Elizabeth Barclay and Charlie Nelson took advantage of this opportunity in 2009, and they will be happy to tell you about their experiences. Please let Professor Floyd know as soon as possible if you are interested in doing this, as the number of participants is extremely limited.

### Title Exam Workshop

A Title Examination Workshop presented by the Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc. is scheduled:

Thursday, February 11, 2010 • NOON • The Great Room

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

A real estate transaction involves many parties and the potential for numerous conflicts of interest. At its core, is the title to real property: its quality, and its transfer and/or encumbrance. Historically, the evaluation of the quality of title to real property, and the rendition of an opinion with respect thereto, has belonged to attorneys. Title insurance policies are issued based on the results of the title examination process. Attorneys earn a portion of the title insurance premium when they serve as an agent for a title insurance underwriter. In some areas of the country, a major source of attorneys' fees associated with real estate transactions is the title insurance premium. It is a "bread and butter" practice area for most attorneys in small firm practice. Knowing how to examine title to real property is thus an essential skill newly minted attorneys must have.

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The Fund's Title Examination Workshop is designed to provide law students with an introduction to the knowledge and techniques necessary to accurately examine titles. The workshop will include the creation and review of a chain of title and a critical analysis of the documents in the title chain. It will also include an overview of the role of title insurance in transactions, an overview of the title insurance industry, and the types of coverage available.



The mission of the Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc. (The Fund) is to preserve and facilitate the real estate practices of its 6,000 member attorneys in their protection of the public. The Fund supports the needs and promotes the success of attorneys' real estate practices by providing valuable, relevant, and timely information, as well as innovative products and services that allow attorneys to conduct transactions electronically, easily, and efficiently. As the nation's first Bar-related® title insurance underwriter, The Fund has been providing extensive support for the real estate practices of attorneys since 1948.

For more information about this program, please contact:

Professor Mike Floyd ([mdfloyd@samford.edu](mailto:mdfloyd@samford.edu)) or your Property professor

## Faculty News

PROFESSOR WILLIAM ROSS

On February 2, Professor William Ross published an article in the online legal journal JURIST entitled "Constructive Criticism: Presidential Criticism of Supreme Court Decisions." It can be accessed at:

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/>



## Cumberland School of Law Relay Teams

Please come out and cheer on the *Cumberland School of Law Relay Teams* as they participate in the *Birmingham Mercedes Marathon* this Sunday, February 14 starting at 7:00 AM.

Team members will be sporting purple and white Cumberland Jerseys. For more information about the course and where the best spectator spots are, please email Molly Savage at [msavage@samford.edu](mailto:msavage@samford.edu) or Megan Murren at [mmurren@samford.edu](mailto:mmurren@samford.edu). Thank you for your support!

Cumberland Active Barristers Association (CABA) is a new student organization with the goal of getting Cumberland law students out into the community for service, fun and fellowship. Interested in other CABA events or have ideas? Email Molly Savage at [msavage@samford.edu](mailto:msavage@samford.edu) or Megan Murren at [mmurren@samford.edu](mailto:mmurren@samford.edu).

## Faculty Colloquium

Professor Howard Walthall will speak to the Cumberland faculty Friday, February 12th at 11:00 AM in the Dean's Conference Room. Lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Laurie Zimmer at 726.2411 or [lzimmer@samford.edu](mailto:lzimmer@samford.edu) no later than 4:00 PM on Wednesday, February 10th .

The topic of Professor Walthall's presentation is:

*The Jefferson County Occupational Tax of 2009: a Case Study in Enacting a Local Bill*

## Public Interest Career Fair

The Office of Career Services is holding its annual PUBLIC INTEREST CAREER FAIR on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This event has grown each year for the past several years and we are proud to include a very diverse group of over 30 nonprofit and government offices this year. Students are welcome to meet representatives, ask them questions about his/her organization and about summer internships or long term career opportunities.

Tuesday, February 23, 2010  
Great Room • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pizza will be served at noon, to students who attend.

## 2010 Summer Public Interest Stipend

Applications are now available for the 2010 Public Interest Stipend. Summer stipends are available to students who are committed to doing 6 to 12 weeks of otherwise uncompensated public interest or public service legal work in the greater Birmingham area. Funds may also be available for placements outside of Birmingham. Positions that have been funded in the past include Legal Aid, the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program, the Alabama Attorney General, and clerkships with various circuit and district judges. Applications may be picked up in the Mediation Center (Room 215) and will be due by April 6, 2010. If you have any questions regarding the stipend please see Tim Cook in room 215.

## HELP Project Summer Internship

The Cumberland Public Interest Project is proud to announce an available stipend, provided by the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, for a student interested in providing legal assistance to the homeless over the summer. The student will assist the Public Interest Project with the Homeless Experience Legal Protection (HELP) program under the direction of attorneys from various firms in the Birmingham area. Firms scheduled to participate include Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP; Burr Forman, LLP; Lightfoot, Franklin, & White LLC; and Sirote & Permutt, PC. The amount of the stipend is \$2,500 and all law students are eligible. First year law students are especially encouraged to apply. Applications are due March 11. Please see Tim Cook or Cassandra Adams in room 215 for an application.

## Works-in-Progress Program



MONTRÉ D. CARODINE

Montré D. Carodine, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Alabama School of Law, is the presenter at the next in the series of the Works-in-Progress programs for the spring semester. Her presentation will take place Friday, February 19 at NOON in the Dean's Conference Room.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE FACULTY

Professor Carodine's profile may be found by following this link:

<http://www.law.ua.edu/directory/view.php?user=352>

## Law Week Charity Fun Run

JOIN CABA IN ITS FIRST EVER LAW WEEK FUN RUN TO RAISE MONEY FOR CASA

On Saturday, March 6, Cumberland Active Barristers Association (CABA) will host its first Law Week 5k Fun Run/1 mile walk at Samford University. Proceeds from the event go toward helping Jefferson County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

### CABA for CASA!

CASA is a group of volunteers who act as a voice in court for children who have suffered abuse or neglect. The CASA mission is to ensure that abused and neglected children have a competent, caring volunteer advocate to represent them at court proceedings. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every child has a safe and permanent home.

In 2008, nearly 4,000 children were abused and neglected in Jefferson County, many of them were placed in foster care or a group home because they are unable to live safely at home. Imagine what it would be like to lose your parents, not because of something you did, but because they cannot or will not take care of you. Now, into these children's lives come dozens of strangers: police, foster parents, therapists, social workers, judges, lawyers and more. Hopefully, one of these strangers is a CASA volunteer. CASA volunteers watch over and advocate for these abused and neglected children to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal system or languish in an inappropriate group or foster home. They stay with each child until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence—the one adult who cares only for them.

CABA seeks to put its feet and imagination to use for the CASA kids and volunteers. CABA invites all Samford University undergraduate and graduate students and alumni to participate in this inaugural event. Registration will be \$25, which will include the price of a t-shirt. Prizes will be awarded for the two best costumed runners/walkers and the first three 5K finishers. CABA will have three special guest judges to choose the best costumes. Following the 5k run, all are invited to take a one-mile walk around the campus to show their support for CASA.

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To register, please contact:

Megan Murren ([mmurren@samford.edu](mailto:mmurren@samford.edu)) or Molly Savage ([msavage@samford.edu](mailto:msavage@samford.edu))

For those who don't want to walk or run,  
donations are *gladly* accepted to help these kids and this great cause.

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CABA was started in the fall of 2009 with the mission of getting Cumberland law students out in the community for service, fun and fellowship. Since then, CABA has hosted open paintball and put together four relay teams to compete in the Birmingham Mercedes Marathon. Spring events for CABA include: a March Madness Charity Bracket to Benefit Operation Lakeshore at the Lakeshore Foundation, a Law Week Tennis Shoe Drive, sky diving, and rock climbing at First Avenue Rocks with Cumberland's Christian Legal Society. CABA events are open to all Cumberland students, faculty, alumni and their families. The more the merrier!

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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WHERE GOOD PEOPLE BECOME EXCEPTIONAL LAWYERS