

# The Dean's Weekly E-Newsletter



A Samford University's Cumberland School of Law publication for law students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the law school

\*Week of March 25, 2013\*



## Cumberland Places Third at the National Client Counseling Competition

WACO, Texas -- The week of March 17, Cumberland School of Law's National Client Counseling team of (pictured from left) **Victoria Ebrahimi** (third-year) and **Kayla Schoen** (second-year) advanced to the championship round of the American Bar Association's National Client Counseling Competition held at Baylor Law School in Waco, Texas. The team placed third overall. A team from Drake University Law School won the competition and Villanova School of Law placed second. Overall, 138 teams from 91 ABA-approved law schools from across the country competed in this year's competition.

Ms. Ebrahimi and Ms. Schoen advanced through three preliminary rounds with 12 teams from around the country, eight semifinal rounds, and then competed in the championship round.

"It was a truly amazing experience to go so far in the competition. We were able to make it to the national finals not only because of the practical training offered at Cumberland, but also due to the gracious and valuable support of Professor Davis and the rest of the staff," noted Ms. Ebrahimi. Cumberland Professor LaJuana S. Davis coached the team.

*Continued on page 2*

## Dialogue with the Dean for Students on March 27 at 4:30 p.m. in the Great Room

This informal conversation will cover tuition freeze details, possible curricular changes and other discussion points. ☺



## Cumberland makes Top Eight at the South Texas Mock Trial Challenge

HOUSTON, Texas -- On March 20-24, Cumberland School of Law's trial team of (pictured from left) **Jackson Neal** (second-year), **Rebecca Hall** (second-year), **Cory Ricci** (third-year) and **Keith Knowlton** (third-year) advanced to the quarterfinals at the 2nd Annual South Texas Mock Trial Challenge held at South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. **Keith Knowlton** was recognized as an **Outstanding Advocate** in the preliminary rounds. Cumberland's team was one of eight among 44 national teams that participated to make the quarterfinals.

After sweeping the preliminary rounds and advancing to the octofinals, Cumberland lost in the quarterfinals in a close round to the eventual runner up, Stetson University.

At the competition, Cumberland School of Law defeated teams from Southern Methodist University, Catholic University, Louisiana State University and Charlotte School of Law.

This year, the problem considered the brave new world of assisted reproduction. The team was coached by **Bains Fleming '07** with the assistance of **Setara Foster '12** and **Todd Buchanan '12**. ☺

## Faculty News



### Professor Alyssa DiRusso

On March 19, Professor Alyssa DiRusso was elected to The American Law Institute (ALI). To learn more about the ALI go to <http://www.ali.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=about.overview>.



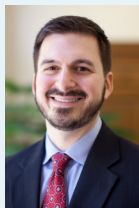
### Professor Wendy Greene

Professor Wendy Greene's article, "Categorically Black, White or Wrong: The Emergence of an 'Actuality Requirement' and Identity Adjudication in Title VII Litigation" has been accepted for publication in the *Michigan Journal of Law Reform*.



### Professor Jill Evans

"If it's beyond the garden variety negligence then (an airport authority) may still have some liability," said Professor Evans in the *al.com* article, "Alabama immunity laws protect airport authorities, but not contractors, from lawsuits claiming negligence." To access this article go to [http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2013/03/alabama\\_immunity\\_laws\\_protect.html](http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2013/03/alabama_immunity_laws_protect.html).



### Professor Woodrow N. Hartzog

On March 13, Professor Hartzog appeared on *The Voice of Russia* (American Edition) show "Due Diligence" to discuss Google's recent settlement with 37 states stemming from the tech company's collection of private information from Wi Fi networks.

To access this recording go to [http://voicerussia.com/radio\\_broadcast/58461461/107875379.html](http://voicerussia.com/radio_broadcast/58461461/107875379.html).

On March 16, Professor Hartzog presented a work-in-progress titled "Social Data" at the Internet Law Scholars Work-in-Progress Event at Santa Clara University. To access more information about this event go to <http://law.scu.edu/hightech/2013-internet-law-wip.cfm>.

"Google Glass is possibly the most significant technological threat to 'privacy in public' I've seen," said Professor Hartzog in the March 22 *ars technica* article "Stop the Cyborgs' launches public campaign against Google Glass." To access this article go to <http://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2013/03/stop-the-cyborgs-launches-public-campaign-against-google-glass/>.



### Professor William G. Ross

"Lawyers sometimes conflate their own financial interests with the interests of the client who pays the bills. Of course, most lawyers are ethical, but the billable hour creates perverse incentives," said Professor Ross in the March 25 *New York Times* article "Suit Offers a Peek at the Practice of Inflating a Legal Bill." This article talks about Professor Ross'

2007 survey of 250 lawyers. To access this article go to <http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2013/03/25/suit-offers-a-peek-at-the-practice-of-padding-a-legal-bill/>. Φ

## Client Counseling Competition

Ms. Schoen added, "I just feel so proud for our team to have accomplished so much this year. The support from our coach, the school and our fellow team members are what made it all possible. I'm excited for Cumberland to continue to show our strength on a national level."

In the Client Counseling Competition, students interview and build rapport with a client in a law office setting. The students then explain the client's available options, identify non-legal and legal courses of action that are consistent with the client's objectives, and point out the likely consequences and risks for the client in choosing certain paths. Students also explain attorney-client confidentiality, fee arrangements, and plan the next steps for handling the client's case. Φ

## Faculty Colloquium

Professor Rusty Johnson will speak to the Cumberland faculty Wednesday, March 27, at 2:30 p.m. in the Bishop Conference Room. Faculty that plan to attend, please send your R.S.V.P. to Laurie Zimmer, at 726-2411 or [lzimmer@samford.edu](mailto:lzimmer@samford.edu), no later than noon, Tuesday, March 26.

The topic of Professor Johnson's presentation is "The Thirteenth Amendment Rationale for the Disparate Impact Claim." ☐

## Student General Elections

On April 3, Cumberland School of Law will hold general elections for a number of positions spanning several organizations, including the Student Bar Association, the Senior Class Executive Board, and the Honor Court. Rising second-year and third-year law students are eligible to run for all positions, with the exception of the Student Bar Association President, which is only open to rising third-year students.

Candidates' Letters of Intent were due March 25, and campaigning runs from March 26 to April 2. The outgoing Senior Class Executive Board oversees all aspects of elections, including candidate eligibility, campaigning and election day. If there are questions about elections, please feel free to contact Paul Simon, senior class president, at [pssimon@samford.edu](mailto:pssimon@samford.edu). ☐

## What does Westlaw® Cost?

On Tuesday, April 2, Lisa Taylor will be a special guest presenter for two classes on Westlaw®. Lisa is a Thomson Reuters Law Firm Account Representative for firms in Alabama. She has intimate knowledge on what Westlaw® costs firms in Alabama. Lisa will share her knowledge from her experience working daily with law firms, attorneys and law librarians. In addition, she will let you know what firms expect you to know when you get to their firm.

Graduating? Working for a firm? Hanging your own shingle? Interested in what it costs to have Westlaw® in your firm? Want some cost-effective research tips?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you'll want to attend this last training opportunity of the year.

In addition to those questions, Lisa will cover:

- Top 10 Cost Effective Tips
- What a firm's Westlaw® billing report looks like
- What warning screens look like in the "real world"
- Firm culture in Alabama
- Where to find a firm's Westlaw® content and pricing guide

All attendees will receive 500 WestlawRewards® Points and Westlaw® goodies.

To view times and sign up on-line visit the online training calendar go to <https://lawschool.westlaw.com/shared/signon10.asp?path=%2fcalendar%2ftrainingcalendar.aspx%3fview%3dlist%26quickfilter%3doff>. ☐



## Alumni Reunion Weekend, April 12–13

### Friday evening April 12

- Reception at the Tutwiler Hotel. Faculty please register with your promotional code by going to <http://cumberland.samford.edu/alumni/reunion-week-end-2013>.

### Saturday, April 13

- 9–11 a.m.: Complimentary CLE
- 11 a.m.: Open House at the law school. Student organizations are welcome to open their respective office doors to welcome the alumni visitors.
- 12:45 p.m.: Dean's informal "state of the law school" address. This will also include the presentation of our alumni awards; 2013 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, 2013 Young Alumnus of the Year, and 2013 Friend of the Law School.
- 2:30 p.m.: Students will be competing in the Donworth Moot Court Competition.

The finals for the Donworth Moot Court Competition will be in the John L. Carroll Moot Courtroom and rooms 114, 118, and 120 of the law school. The Donworth is the first-year law students' moot court competition where students argue their Lawyering and Legal Reasoning [LLR] course problems. The students will make legal arguments based on their appellate briefs, written for LLR, in front of a mock appellate court. All alumni, prospective students, family and friends are welcome to attend.

- 5:30–7 p.m.: A Minority Alumni Reception will be held at the law firm Johnston Barton Proctor & Rose LLP prior to individual class reunion parties. Faculty and students, if you would like to attend this reception, please register by going to the link above.
- 7 p.m.: Individual Class Reunion Parties (details at the link above) **Faculty are encouraged to attend.** Φ

## Additional Upcoming Alumni Events

### April 24

Annual Montgomery Alumni Luncheon, sponsored by Beasley Allen

- Students who are working in Montgomery this summer or seeking employment in Montgomery are invited, please register with the alumni office.
- Faculty members are also invited, please let Connie Cox know if you plan to attend.

### May 17

Commencement is at 6 p.m. A reception for graduates and their guests will be held at 4 p.m. on Brewer Plaza.

### June 21

Alumni Reception in Asheville, N.C.

- Students who are working in N.C. or taking the N.C. bar are welcome to attend—please let the Alumni Office know if you would like to attend.

### June 27

Alumni Reception in Boca Raton, Fla.

- Students who are working in Fla. or taking the Fla. bar are welcome to attend—please let the Alumni Office know if you would like to attend.

### July 17

Alumni Reception at the Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting in Point Clear, Ala.