

CUMBERLAND TRIAL TEAM WINS AAJ 2009 REGIONAL

Law schools from the southeast sent teams to Decatur, Georgia, February 28 - March 1, to compete in the American Association for Justice (AAJ) 2009 National Student Trial Advocacy Competition Regional. Cumberland fielded two teams in the competition. One team's members were **Lucas Griffin, Elizabeth Hall, Justin Jones, and Nathan Mays**. The team who won the competition was **Summer Davis, Tim Douthit, Shannon Elliott, and Jessica Jones**. They will advance to the National Finals April 2 - 5, 2009 in West Palm Beach, Florida. The team is coached by **Mike Rasmussen, '75**. **Tracy Luke** accompanied the team and was Cumberland's on-site representative.

Other schools in the regional were: Faulkner University, University of Georgia, University of Alabama, Georgia State University, Birmingham School of Law, John Marshall Law School, Mercer University, and Loyola University-New Orleans.

Thank you to everyone that gave of their time to help select and prepare these teams for competition.



Last weekend, a Cumberland team won the regional of the National Trial Competition in Tallahassee, Florida. The **National Trial Competition** and the **AAJ Competition** are the most prestigious mock trial competitions in the country. It is a real tribute to our students and coaches that we will have teams in both national championships.



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LAW WEEK • MARCH 1 - 7, 2009



Every spring, students, faculty and staff look forward to the annual events and celebrations which are held during Law Week. Below are a few highlights of this year's events.

WILLIAMS FRESHMAN TRIAL COMPETITION

The final round of the Parham H. Williams Trial Competition will be the featured competition of Law Week and will take place Wednesday, **March 4** at **3:00 PM** in the Moot Court Room. Congratulations to the finalists:

Brandon Prince and **Larry Fantroy** v. **Matthew Lehnertz** and **Reanna Todd**

We are honored to have **Judge Callie V. S. Granade**, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, presiding. All students and faculty are invited to attend.

RASCAL DAY

On Thursday, **March 5** at **11:00 AM**, the Law School will honor the memory of **Rascal**, the only recipient of the Doctor of Canine Jurisprudence degree, at the annual Rascal Memorial Procession. Students, faculty, and friends of the Law School (along with their pets) will proceed behind a New Orleans-style jazz band from the foot of Samford's Centennial Walk to Blackacre Patio.



After a moving eulogy, mourners and pets will enjoy a hotdog lunch served by Cumberland faculty. As always, judges will be awarding prizes in several categories, including the Best Dressed Dog, the Best Trick, the dog most resembling its owner, the smallest and largest dog, and the dog that most represents the spirit of Rascal.

According to Cumberland tradition, Rascal was a mongrel pup who faithfully attended classes at the law school's former home in Lebanon, Tennessee, beginning in 1933, and in 1937 he was presented the rare degree of Doctor of Canine Jurisprudence. Rascal passed away in 1940 and was buried with much ceremony beneath the window where he attended classes. When Cumberland moved to Birmingham in 1961, Rascal's tombstone and a few spadefuls of dirt were brought to the Samford Campus, and again interred at Blackacre, on the west side of Robinson Hall.

Make sure you and your pet come out for a great afternoon of live music, free food and prizes in this fun-filled tradition honoring Rascal, Cumberland's own CJD.

FRESHMAN FOLLIES

The Freshman Follies will be held Thursday, **March 5** at **4:30 PM** in the Moot Court Room.

LAW WEEK CALENDAR

The complete schedule for Law Week may be found [HERE](#).

FACULTY NEWS

PROFESSOR BELLE STODDARD

Professor Belle Stoddard will be attending the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Judson College in Marion, Alabama on Thursday, March 5, 2009. The Alabama Legislature authorized the Hall of Fame in 1970 to honor the lives of outstanding women affiliated with the State of Alabama. Each honoree has a bronze plaque that commemorates her accomplishments. Board members are selected from a cross section of the state and represent broad areas of interest. Professor Stoddard represents the legal profession on the Board. This year **Coretta Scott King** is being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL DEBOW

On Friday, February 27, **Professor Mike DeBow** spoke to a conference on state judicial selection held at the University of Missouri Law School in Columbia, Missouri.

JUDGE JOHN CARROLL

Judge John Carroll was a participant in the Northern Kentucky University Law Review's Spring Symposium this past weekend in Cincinnati. He was a member of a panel which discussed Ethics and E-discovery.

NORWICH SCHOLARSHIP

Third-year law students have the opportunity to apply for tuition scholarships to obtain a graduate law degree at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, England. The program provides excellent academic training as well as an opportunity to interact with students from across the globe. More information can be found on UEA's website at:

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/law/LLMProgs>

Interested students should submit a résumé and a short essay to **Professor Mike Floyd** in Room 220-A no later than **March 13th**. The essay should address how obtaining a scholarship and pursuing a graduate law degree at UEA will advance the student's future plans.

**The LL.M.
in international commercial
and business law
is taught in
Earlham Hall,
Norwich Law School.**



EARLHAM HALL • NORWICH LAW SCHOOL

BIRMINGHAM BUSINESS JOURNAL'S "TOP 40 UNDER 40"

Congratulations to the following alumni who were named to Birmingham Business Journal's "Top 40 Under 40."

Michael I. Fish, '95

Jeffrey S. DeArman, '99

Christopher A. Bottcher, '96

India Vincent, '99

Jeff Pomeroy, '98

Khristi Driver, '00

ON-CAMPUS VITA OPPORTUNITY

On Friday, **March 13**, from noon to 4:00 PM, Samford will host an on-campus Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinic in the undergraduate library. Volunteers are welcome to assist with tax form preparation and other functions, including greeting and intake form preparation. The site will focus on foreign student and scholar returns, although there may be some non-student low-income returns as well. This is a separate opportunity from the SaveFirst effort earlier this tax season.

To prepare income tax returns, you must be certified, and foreign scholar and student returns require additional certification. You can get certified through the IRS website (go to www.irs.gov and search for "link and learn" or follow this link: <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=123214,00.html>) If you volunteered through SaveFirst, your VITA training for that would qualify you to prepare low-income taxpayer returns, but you would need to complete the additional online course module to prepare foreign student and scholar returns.

If you have questions, please contact Professor DiRusso or Latrice Averette (Service-Learning Coordinator, AmeriCorps *VISTA Samford In Service) at suvista1@samford.edu.

WOMEN IN LAW PROGRAM

Women in Law will host a program Thursday, **March 12** at **11:00 AM** in the **Great Room**. **Sabrina Simon**, in-house counsel for Southern Progress, will discuss her experiences as a female attorney and will answer any student questions related to the practice of law. All students and faculty are invited to attend. **Lunch will be provided.**

STUDENT HEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION PROGRAM

Nationally, nearly 100,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant. A new person is added to the waiting list every 18 minutes. For an average of nineteen people per day, the wait is too long and they die before a suitable organ is available.

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In Alabama, approximately 3,100 people are waiting for a transplant.

On **March 12**, the Student Health Lawyers Association will be hosting a speaker from the Alabama Organ Center. This organization coordinates the equitable use of organs and tissues donated in Alabama to people in need.

Come learn about what organ donation is and how you can become an organ donor. The program is scheduled at **11:00 AM** in **room 123** of Robinson Hall.

SPRING ADLA LUNCHEON

The Cumberland student division of the **Alabama Defense Lawyers Association** (ADLA) will host its annual spring luncheon on Thursday, **March 12**, from **11:00 AM** to **12:00 PM** in **room 114**. Lawyers from around the state will come to discuss various topics relating to defense work and provide advise to law students regarding what to expect when they graduate and enter the legal profession.

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

TITLE EXAM WORKSHOP

A **Title Examination Workshop** presented by the Attorneys' Title Insurance Fund, Inc. is scheduled Tuesday, **March 24, 2009** at **noon** in 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.

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).

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

The Law School annually recognizes faculty, staff, and students who have completed 30 hours or more of public interest legal work, community service, or public service during the school 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 to be held on **Thursday, April 9, 2009**. The certificates will be presented at that time.

You are encouraged to apply for the award. Examples of qualifying work would 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 a 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 easy [the award operates on the **honor system**]. Hard copies of the application are available in room 215 of Robinson Hall (Cumberland Community Mediation Center & Public Interest Project) . Completed applications should be emailed to ccmc@samford.edu or a hard copy delivered to Jeanette Lincecum in Room 215. **The deadline is March 30, 2009.**

SUMMER 2009 SCHEDULE

The summer 2009 schedule and grid are now posted on the Cumberland web site:

<http://www.cumberland.samford.edu/students/class-schedules>

Registration:

- Registration for summer 2009 will open on Monday, March 24th at 8:00 am
- Summer registration will once again be done exclusively online, instructions - <http://www.samford.edu/bannerselfservice/students.html>
- There are no bid points for summer classes
- You will not be registered for Directed Research until the completed form is turned into the Office of Law Student Records (forms may be picked up in our office)
- You must have permission to take any Externship, you will not be registered for Externships until we have been notified by the Clinical Office that you have been granted such permission
- You may register for up to 8 hours online
- In order to register for 9 hours, you must have signed permission from Dean Strickland, registration forms to be signed may be picked up in the Office of Law Student Records
- You may not take more than 4 credit hours of online courses during any term and you may only take a total of 12 credit hours of online courses toward your JD degree
- Online registration will close at midnight on Friday, May 29th

Fall schedules and grids and registration information will be forthcoming.

Please contact **Pattie Harris** (pcharris@samford.edu or 205.726.2701) in the Office of Student Records if you are in need of assistance during the registration process.

