

Lawyering and Legal Reasoning Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Called to the Bar Opening Workshop?

The *Called to the Bar* Opening Workshop will take place Tuesday, August 17 through Friday, August 20, 2010. Please set aside that time to attend this **mandatory** program. Tuesday through Thursday of the workshop week contains a variety of programs that will orient you to the study of law and the law library. During this time we will focus on issues of professionalism and ethics. We will also prepare you for beginning your study of law by providing you with an introduction to the law school classroom experience and instruction on the briefing of cases. The instruction will come from your Lawyering and Legal Reasoning professor and the Caruthers Fellows who are assigned to your LLR section. The sessions on Friday will focus on Value-Based Lawyering and public interest opportunities at Cumberland School of Law.

What is the Called to the Bar Program?

The *Called to the Bar* Program is a part of the required Lawyering and Legal Reasoning course [LLR]. It is jointly run by the LLR staff and the Office of the Dean and will continue through your entire first-year. It is designed to provide you with an interesting and useful introduction to the law school experience and your chosen profession.

The term *Called to the Bar* originated in the traditions of the English legal profession. In order to be admitted to practice in the English courts, one had to be called to the bar by one of the four Inns of Court. The calling was a public acknowledgment of the candidate's suitability for designation as a barrister. It was also based on the ideal of the lawyer as a professional, i.e. one who is called to public service and thereby willing to set aside personal concerns and motivations in order to serve others. The obligation of the lawyer to represent unpopular clients and causes stems from the belief that law is a public calling.

What is LLR?

Cumberland School of Law's unique Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (LLR) course is a first-year six-hour course that teaches the all important skills of lawyering, legal reasoning and legal research. After an initial introduction to legal reasoning, students meet their client for an interview, research the client's problem and prepare to represent the client's interest. The client receives a Client Letter, a Legal Memorandum is written for the Senior Partner and teams try to Negotiate a settlement in the case. Students memorialize their Settlement Agreement in writing. In the second semester students representing the plaintiff file a Complaint, defendants' counsel files an Answer and the cause is joined.

The Discovery process is then discussed. Next, the defendants file a motion for Summary Judgment and Memorandum Brief. The plaintiffs file a Response and a Memorandum Brief. After the trial judge considers the matter and issues an Order, students write an Appellate Brief. The course includes training in the traditional methods

of legal research using the law school's Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library and training in electronic research on LexisNexis, Westlaw and other online sources.

What is the LLR Mentoring Program?

Prior to your arrival at Cumberland School of Law, you will be assigned to a section of the Lawyering and Legal Reasoning [LLR]. Each LLR section is led by a professor. Caruthers Fellows will assist and guide new students through the first week of law school and continue to be available through the entire first year as mentors and teaching assistants.

Who are Caruthers Fellows?

Caruthers Fellows are second- and third-year law students who succeeded in their first-year of law school. They compete for the honor of serving as Caruthers Fellows. Caruthers Fellows mentor and assist in legal research and writing.

Caruthers Fellows are named in honor of Cumberland School of Law's founder, Judge Abraham Caruthers. When Judge Caruthers met with the law school's first seven students in his brother's law office in Lebanon, Tennessee, on October 1, 1847, he took the lesson from a slim book he had just written, *History of a Lawsuit*, which outlined the procedure for bringing a lawsuit. For more than 100 years, every entering class began with Caruthers' textbook, which eventually grew to more than 600 pages and eight editions. The designation of Judge Andrew Caruthers Fellows shows Cumberland School of Law's commitment that basic lawyering skills remain a cornerstone of the law school's curriculum.