

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY / FALL 2022 / ALUMNI MAGAZINE

# CUMBERLAND LAWYER







A new academic year brings with it new opportunities for our students to lead, like with third-year students Haleigh Chambliss and Jackson Parker. Chambliss is this year's editor-and-chair of the Cumberland Law Review, and Parker is serving as the editor-in-chief of the American Journal of Trial Advocacy.



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We hope you find this publication informative. If there are stories and topics you would like to see in future issues, please let us know. This is your publication, and we want your feedback at [cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu](mailto:cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu).





# DEAN'S MESSAGE

**I grew up in southwestern Alabama. My father, who was the first person in our family to go to college, did not have running water or electricity in his home until he was 14 years old—in the year 1962. But my parents made sure I had an opportunity to attend the University of Montevallo, just down the road from Samford. And I became a first-generation lawyer. The choice of my father to pursue an education, and make sure I had the same advantage, changed the trajectory of my family. This is generational change, the direct beneficiaries of whom are my own children.**

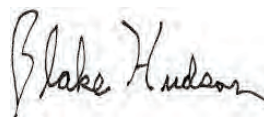
Cumberland School of Law has been creating this kind of generational change for a very long time. I saw it in my small hometown of Grove Hill, Alabama, where more than one set of parents attended Cumberland and their children followed years later. Although I am new to Cumberland Law, I have a deep appreciation for its 175-year history. Founded in 1847, Cumberland joined Harvard Law and Virginia Law as the largest law schools in America by 1859—a remarkable feat.

In my short time at Cumberland, I have been so impressed by the quality of the faculty and just how much impactful work they are doing. We have excellent professors shaping not only students in the classroom but improving the law through their scholarship. Some professors run centers and clinics focused on the most vulnerable—"the least of these"—in our population. Others help our students learn how to write and develop practical skills necessary for the practice of law. Yet others focus on the substantive nuts and bolts of trial advocacy, transactional, regulatory and international aspects of legal practice. There truly is something at Cumberland for every student, and there are professors giving their all to help students succeed and to shape the law into a better form.

Cumberland's staff is incredibly dedicated to helping us all succeed. They are the stewards of our institutional memory, a necessary element for any large organization to run smoothly for a sustained period. And Cumberland's students are incredibly collegial and driven. When I first came to campus during the interview process, I met a student who was from my rural part of Alabama and with whom I share a remarkably similar journey. To see how Cumberland has changed the trajectory of his life, the way that a legal education changed mine, reaffirmed my belief that we must cast a wider net—with intentionality—to capture all the untapped potential that exists among our prospective students.

One of the most important things to do when one first enters leadership at a new institution is listen and learn before acting. I will be doing a lot of that over the next year. But there are a few things I know that we are doing and about which I am happy to report. We are thrilled to be pursuing several faculty hires this fall, strengthening our faculty numbers. We will be hiring a new CLE director and harnessing that program to provide more content and better engage with the legal community. We have had some exciting developments in our advancement and alumni relations department and will be working hard to increase Cumberland's financial stability. We will also be undertaking careful assessments of the efficacy of the newly implemented bar prep program within our Academic Support unit. We will continue to adapt our online graduate program offerings to respond to trends in legal education, and we will work toward increasing the diversity of the law school's faculty, staff and students so that we more accurately reflect the makeup of our community. Our clinics will continue to provide critical services, from representing our veterans to helping those in need of criminal defense assistance. Finally, we will continue to build upon our primary strengths, like our nationally ranked trial advocacy program, while also expanding our offerings and programs in other areas, like transactional and regulatory law.

I am excited to be at Cumberland Law, eager to listen and learn, and to set about working with our faculty, staff, students, and alumni to help Cumberland successfully embark on its next 175 years.



**Blake Hudson**

Dean, Cumberland School of Law



## *From the Office of Alumni Relations*

### **Seasons: Weather patterns, life, the market and leadership.**

As I write this letter the heat index is over 100 degrees. I am ready for a new season of cooler temperatures, and you may be as well. Nonetheless, the heat is insignificant compared to losses from illness, flooding, fire or other crises. Fortunately, a new season is almost always guaranteed.

As you know by now, this 175th anniversary year starts a new season at your alma mater—a new era led by Blake Hudson. As well, due to some retirements, Dean Hudson will be adding to our faculty and staff. We will continue to offer opportunities for you to meet Dean Hudson and the others, to ask questions, offer suggestions, learn about priorities and hear about our latest successes and current needs. Maybe you are in a new season, too. If you've been out of touch with the law school, consider reconnecting with us and some law school classmates.



Maybe you are looking to pursue a new season of leadership. Many professional organizations rotate or change leadership on an annual basis. In 2022, we had at least eight county bar associations in Alabama led by Cumberland alumni. Consider joining or chairing a section or running for an officer role in your local bar association. Cumberland lawyers are serving across the nation in many other capacities as well. It's exciting to see, and getting connected is professionally and personally rewarding. Our Class Notes section (pages 24-28) is ample evidence of great service and leadership. Hats off to some of our "brand new" and young alumni who are already stepping up to lead.

If you have recently embarked in a new role, or have been recognized for your service, allow us to share this news with your Cumberland community. Send me details to include in the next newsletter and magazine. If you'd like to visit campus again and get the nickel tour of Robinson Hall, I can show you some renovated classrooms and tell you about other things we have planned. If you would like to meet with one of your former law professors or speak to a new professor, tell me. I'll be glad to help arrange it. You support Cumberland School of Law in many ways, and we would like to support you too. Thank you for representing your law school in our new season.

Anne L. Marovich, J.D.

Senior Advancement Officer

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# *Celebrating* **History**

## **and a New Beginning**

*By Kerry McInerney*

### **This is a season of celebration for Cumberland School of Law.**

The year 2022 marks 175 years that Cumberland has prepared students for the practice of law and produced generations of leaders in law, business, politics and beyond. Dedicated in 1996, the Lucille Beeson Law Library welcomed its millionth visitor in May. From its inception, Cumberland has developed a distinctive culture of collegial, supportive relationships and dedication to service.







## Culture. Community. Service. All hallmarks of 175 years of Cumberland School of Law.

There is also cause to celebrate a new chapter in Cumberland's storied history. Following a nationwide search, Blake Hudson was named Cumberland's newest dean. Hudson comes to Cumberland from the University of Florida where he served as the Samuel T. Dell Professor of Law and director of the Environmental Land Use and Real Estate Law Program. He also served as law school faculty at Stetson University, Louisiana State University and the Houston Law Center. Before entering academia, Hudson practiced law at the firm of Baker Botts.

Hudson succeeds Henry C. "Corky" Strickland, Cumberland's dean since 2014. "Cumberland's 175th anniversary provides an ideal time for a new beginning with a new dean. With the law school's applications, enrollment and budget strong, the pandemic subsiding, and the university working on a new strategic plan with a new president, the time is ripe for the law school to develop a new, ambitious strategic plan. I am impressed with Dean Hudson's experience, energy and teamwork. I am confident that he will provide the vision and commitment to lead the law school to new success," Strickland said.

Hudson recognized Cumberland's 175th anniversary by saying, "That is a remarkably deep history. I am thrilled to join Cumberland School of Law and work with the faculty in continuing the important work of educating future lawyers. Dean Strickland's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the law school into what it is today, and I thank him for leaving the school on such a strong footing."

Hudson focuses his teaching and research on property, environmental and natural resources management, and land use law,

policy and planning. He has published over 30 articles in legal and peer reviewed academic journals, 10 book chapters and three books.

Hudson's love of the intersection of law and the land has roots in his upbringing. He grew up in Grove Hill, Alabama, a town of 1,200 people. His father was the youngest of six children and was raised in a home without running water or electricity until he turned 14 years old in 1962. Hudson's father would go on to become a collegiate educator, ultimately achieving the position of associate dean. A young Blake Hudson had no vision of sitting in a dean's office himself; however, Hudson's early experiences helping his family with their land cultivated a passion for environmental conservation and management.

Hudson feels blessed that his athletic ability enabled him to attend the University of Montevallo, where he would graduate with degrees in biology and history with minors in prelaw and political science. Hudson enjoyed playing basketball for Montevallo, but he credits his time there to opening his eyes to how law school might allow him to pursue his love for the environment as an environmental lawyer. Drawn to its Nicholas School of the Environment, Hudson applied to Duke University Law School. His application was placed on the waiting list.

This was when Hudson took a chance that would set the course for his future.

Hudson scrounged up all the money to pay the cost of a round trip to North Carolina. "I mean, literally every cent," he said. "When I arrived in Durham, I had no money left so I had to walk several miles to the university." The purpose of his journey was the slim hope that he might persuade someone to let him in. The director of admission granted Hudson a meeting. The gamble paid off—Hudson soon learned that his application was granted, but he learned only later that he'd been admitted on the strength of the admission director's recommendation.

"Cumberland is such a special community because not only are we teaching students how to practice law, but how to be upstanding citizens carrying out Samford's mission."

—BLAKE HUDSON





Hudson with his family, including wife, Eliza, and two sons, Ridley and Campbell.

"I suffered greatly from 'imposter syndrome' my first few months at Duke," Hudson admits. "I heard the other students talking economic theory and concepts that sounded like a different language. My confidence was at an all-time low. I wondered if I was out of my league and whether I belonged there."

"But I dug in and I worked. I worked hard. And I started to see some success. Where some of those students who had intimidated me struggled, I began to succeed." Three years later, Hudson would graduate from Duke with honors along with a master's degree in environmental science and policy.

Hudson is quick to credit the value of hard work in earning any success. He wants to share that with Cumberland students. He wants them to understand that with confidence comes competence and the ability to overcome even higher hurdles in the future. He is living proof.

Hudson also understands how thin the line can be between positive and negative outcomes. Hudson grew up playing with four children from a neighboring family. Like Hudson, two of those childhood friends also earned success, one in medicine and one in business. The other two are in prison.

This disparity in potential outcomes, especially in struggling communities, motivates Hudson's vision of extending Cumberland's reach in the community. As the first lawyer in his

family, Hudson wants Cumberland to be a pipeline for other first-generation lawyers. He also wants to reach into high schools, colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities to introduce those students to law.

"Cumberland is such a special community because not only are we teaching students how to practice law, but how to be upstanding citizens carrying out Samford's mission," he said. "That is, to 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly' (Micah 6:8)."

That mission is one of the things that drew Hudson to Cumberland. "Faith is central to everything I do," Hudson said, who regularly teaches Sunday school and plays guitar in his worship team band.

Crediting his faith, Hudson describes himself as a servant leader. Service is also a theme for the Hudson family. His wife, Eliza, has spent her career helping the needy and disabled. The family, including sons Campbell (10) and Ridley (7), regularly works to support their neighbors. "My family is so happy to join the Cumberland community," he said. "My wife graduated from Samford and looks forward to engaging with its community service programs. And, of course, I am coming home to Alabama. So, on a professional and personal level, we couldn't be happier."

**Faith. Family. Fellowship. All hallmarks of Dean Blake Hudson. Truly a season to celebrate history and a new beginning at Cumberland.**



# Tribute to a Legend

## Frank Donaldson, 1921-2022

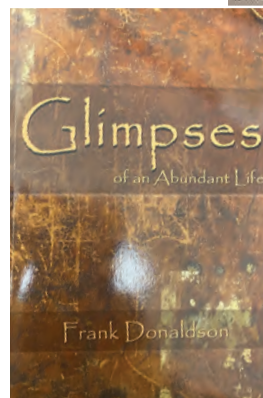
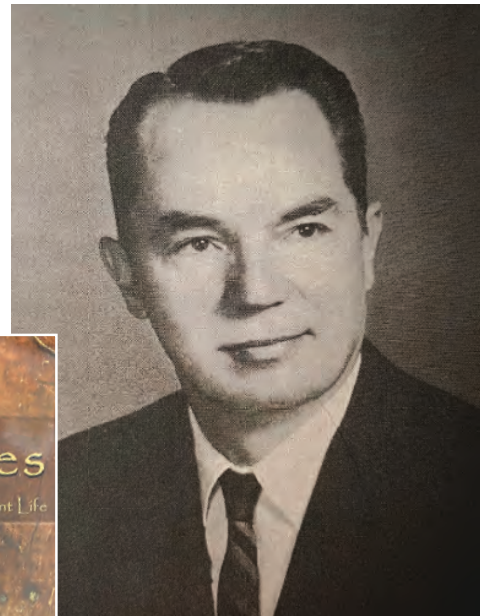
**Joining the faculty in 1962, Frank Donaldson taught at Cumberland School of Law for 43 years. He was a full-time, tenured professor from 1962-1981, and he served for several years as the school's associate dean. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed him the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. He served in that role for 11 years, continuing to teach part-time. After leaving the U.S. attorney's office in 1992, Donaldson taught another 13 years as professor emeritus.**

Donaldson was an outstanding teacher. He was loved by generations of Cumberland students who asked about him at every alumni function. They fondly remember playing handball with him and being challenged in his class—all agreeing one did not dare be unprepared. Brad Bishop and John Carroll were among Donaldson's many successful students. Bishop had Donaldson for Contracts, and Carroll had him for Civil Procedure. Bishop said that Donaldson was his mentor after Bishop joined the faculty. "I often said that I taught Contracts according to Donaldson," Bishop said.

Prior to his time as faculty, Donaldson earned his undergraduate degree from Howard College, now Samford, and his law degree from the University of Alabama. He valiantly served as a U.S. Air Force pilot, a reservist and an FBI agent. Moreover, he deeply served God, his family and his community with intentionality.

Even in recent years, Donaldson, along with his wife Patti, attended alumni reunions and enjoyed visiting with former students and colleagues. They were often accompanied by their daughter, Sharon Stuart '90, founding partner of Christian & Small, president of Attorneys Insurance Mutual of the South and member of the Samford's Board of Trustees. Their son, Steve Donaldson, was a cognitive scientist who was a professor of math and computer science at Samford University. Sadly, Steve passed away in 2018.

Donaldson played a huge role in making Cumberland a great law school and educating excellent and ethical lawyers. In 2011, he published his memoir, *Glimpses of an Abundant Life*, containing details of his service, his experiences, and yes, his abundant life. Donaldson passed away on June 2 at 100 years old.



The cover of Donaldson's book, *Glimpses of an Abundant Life*, which was published in 2011.



Donaldson and his wife, Patti, were married for 72 years.

If you'd like to honor Donaldson and his legacy by contributing to the Frank Donaldson Scholarship Fund, please go to [samford.edu/giving/how-to-give](https://samford.edu/giving/how-to-give). You may designate your gift to this fund. The Donaldson family will be informed of your gesture, and proceeds will be meaningful in the life of a law student.



# *Recognizing* 210 Years of Service

Earlier this year, we were honored to recognize many longtime faculty and staff members who retired at the end of June. Combined, 210 years of humble dedication and service to the Samford University and Cumberland School of Law communities is represented among this profound group of legal scholars and committed professionals. We express our most sincere appreciation for them and wish them the best in their well-deserved season of retirement.



***T. Brad Bishop, '61, J.D. '71***  
Former Dean and Professor of Law  
**55 years**



***Pattie C. Harris '73***  
Director of Law Student Records  
**31 Years**



***John L. Carroll, J.D. '74***  
Former Dean and Professor of Law  
**21 years**



***Tracy N. Luke '91***  
Program Coordinator, Center for  
Advocacy and Clinical Education  
**33 Years**



***Linda D. Connor, J.D. '88***  
Director of Continuing  
Legal Education  
**33 years**



***Valerie A. Price***  
Program Assistant  
**10 Years**



***Della H. Darby***  
Metadata Librarian  
**21 Years**



***Paula Kierce***  
Director of Development  
**6 Years**



# Cumberland Legacies

*Following in the footsteps of a related Cumberland lawyer*



Ken Thompson '22 and his father, J.K. Thompson '94

Ander Shimek '22 and his father, Arthur Shimek '84



Kate Larsen '22 and her mother, Melissa Larsen '92

Olivia Hall '22 and her father, Jack Hall '85





On Saturday, May 30, Cumberland School of Law awarded 143 Juris Doctors to its graduates. Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, who graduated from the law school in 2007, was the keynote speaker and asked students to know their “why” for becoming lawyers.

“Standing on this stage I can’t tell you your why because each of your journeys is different, but I can tell you how to achieve it. You achieve it by connecting with the communities you serve and by finding and digging deep for your passion,” he said.



## Alumna Profile:

# Kate Belyayeva '22

Kate Belyayeva '22 first came to the United States from Ukraine in 2013 to attend high school through the Future Leaders Exchange Program after a highly competitive, merit-based selection process. After graduating from high school in Alabama, she received a full-tuition Chancellor's Scholarship to attend Troy University in Troy, Alabama, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Accounting. Throughout her time in college, she realized her passion for tax law from both her classes and volunteering as an income tax preparer with Safe First (VITA). She then applied for, and received, Cumberland School of Law's premier scholarship—the Jere F. White Fellowship. At Cumberland, she was very involved, including being an integral member of the National Trial Team and the *Cumberland Law Review*.



### **Q: Where will you start your first professional legal role and is tax law still an area of interest?**

A: I am very excited to start my professional career at Maynard Cooper & Gale as an associate attorney in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Group. Though I have been afforded many opportunities to explore my interests in litigation and different types of transactional work during my time at Cumberland, my interest remains in tax law.

### **Q: Since tax law is your area of interest, do you have an aspirational goal with that type of practice?**

A: I am fortunate to have found my niche in tax law about five years ago when I was pursuing my bachelor's degree. Since then, I have been intentional about taking every tax class and learning from the opportunities available to me at Cumberland. My first overall goal entering this field is to never stop being a student to the attorneys and educators of the law in my surroundings. Second, I aspire to help make tax law more friendly and approachable to my clients and those impacted by tax policies. And finally, I hope to be able to give back to the community in which I reside and practice.

### **Q: Do you still have family in Ukraine? If so, how are they and how do you cope with anxiety that you might experience about the war happening there?**

A: My entire family is still in Ukraine, including my mom and my brother. Needless to say, the past few months have been filled with daily worry and anxiety about the recent events in my home country. Keeping a constant line of communication with my mom and being well-informed about the war has been the only way for me to cope with the situation. I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received in the form of comforting words,

condolences, prayers and financial donations. Thank you to all who have stood up for my country and the nations that have come to its defense. It is incredible to see people come together for the shared cause in helping Ukraine. My hope is that this conflict resolves soon and that my family along with millions of others are able to find safety and recover from this devastating event.

### **Q: What, or who, kept you motivated to stay in the United States, away from your family?**

A: Ever since I was little, my mom has always encouraged me to do the impossible. In a country where the monthly minimum wage is less than \$100 dollars, I was very fortunate my mother did not deny me a future full of dreams that cost far beyond what her wages could afford. When I was selected for the Future Leaders Exchange Program, my mom had to take out a loan to afford my suitcase as she believed in my dreams even more so than I did, and so she made it work. When we found out I had received a scholarship for college, my mother sold her gold jewelry to buy me a one-way ticket back to the United States because she wanted me to build a better life than she had. Throughout the last 10 years, my mom's faith in me has not waived. She believes I can do anything, and that's what makes me believe in myself. She sacrificed a lot for me to earn my place in the United States—that's what kept me motivated to stay here, away from my family and friends. Now, the United States has become my new home over the years with new family and friends, and I get to experience the richness of both Ukraine and the U.S.

### **Q: As you reflect upon the last three years you spent in law school, what makes you smile the most?**

A: What makes me smile the most when I reflect upon the last three years are my friends, without a doubt. Growing up, I rarely

felt like I was a part of something greater than myself. I did not play sports nor was I a part of any social clubs. Of course, I have met some people with my shared interests throughout high school and college, but it was not until law school that I met so many people with a shared purpose. Together, we experienced the good and the bad while creating a bond that undoubtedly will last for years. I look forward to seeing them all grow, develop and reach great success in both their careers and personal lives.

**Q: Would you have done anything differently?**

A: I think many of us who decide to pursue law are “Type A” perfectionists to a fault. Even though Cumberland cultivates a very healthy educational environment, there is always a sense of competition that cannot be eliminated because of the inherent nature of law school as an institution. I have always been my greatest competitor and critic—looking back, I should have given myself more grace and worried less.

**Q: Where do you find your source of hope and inspiration?**

A: My biggest source of hope and inspiration are my family and Jesus Christ. I discovered my interests many years ago, but I would not have been able to pursue them if it wasn't for my family and friends believing in me and the grace of God guiding me. Reflecting on the course of my educational journey, I realize that I was blessed with a series of opportunities—the Future Leaders Exchange program, the Troy University scholarship and the Jere F.

White Fellowship. Growing up I was surrounded by people whose chances at a better life were taken away by corruption, oligarchy and now an ongoing, futile war. I was one of the lucky—I'd call it blessed—ones to have been granted an opportunity to pursue my interests and a better life. When I need to draw hope or inspiration, I reflect on the past—to the times where God has provided for me and when my family has sacrificed for me even when things felt impossible or unattainable—to keep going each day.

**Q: Do you have advice for those just beginning law school?**

A: To all the first years—take advantage of every opportunity presented to you. Cumberland has a lot to offer, and it's easy to get caught up in the daily study grind instead of getting involved, making friends and seizing opportunities for personal and professional growth. When I was a 1L, I was confident in my choice of practice area to a fault. I am very thankful that I did not let that confidence hold me back from exploring the myriad of activities available to me. Although I landed back where I started, deciding to pursue tax law, I have expanded my skill set through becoming a member of the National Trial Team and clerking for a federal judge. Initially, I did not anticipate that these activities would be a part of my law school journey because, at first sight, they might seem unrelated to tax law. However, I truly believe that it was essential for me to experience these in order to become a more successful and well-rounded lawyer—not to mention the friends and connections I made during the process will likely reap future opportunities.

# SAVE THE DATE

*Jere F. White Jr.*  
**Trial Advocacy  
Institute**



In conjunction with the Alabama Chapter of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Cumberland School of Law CLE will offer the Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute, which supports fellowship opportunities for Cumberland School of Law students.

FRIDAY  
NOV.  
**4**  
2022

Birmingham, Alabama

[samford.edu/go/cle](https://samford.edu/go/cle)



# Meet the Incoming Class

*Samford's Cumberland School of Law welcomed new Juris Doctor students during their first-year orientation on Aug. 8-11. The 146-person class is comprised of students who represent:*

**13** STATES,  
**1** FROM THE UK

**44** undergraduate colleges and universities

**41** college majors

**11%** have graduate degrees

The average age is **23** years old

**20%** first generation college student  
& **79%** first generation lawyer

**18%** of the incoming class are underrepresented minorities

Academically, the class has impressive credentials which have increased the law school's medians to a 155 on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) and a 3.62 cumulative undergraduate GPA.

	LSAT	GPA
Medians	155	3.62
75th	157	3.82
25th	152	3.35



# *First-Year Student Moore Receives National Scholarship to Aid Dream of Combating Racial Injustice*

By Morgan Black

**Malik Moore**, a member of Cumberland School of Law's class of 2025, was selected as a member of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc.'s (LDF) Marshall-Motley Scholars Program (MMSP). Moore is one of 10 scholars from across the nation selected for the second MMSP cohort which will aid him in his dream of combating racial injustice.

Launched in January 2021, the program is named in honor of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and iconic civil rights litigator Constance Baker Motley. It provides scholars a full-tuition scholarship to attend the law school of the scholar's choice, support for room and board, summer internship opportunities with national and regional civil rights organizations, a two-year postgraduate fellowship at civil rights law organizations in the South and access to special training sponsored by LDF.

"Systemic racism remains a deeply ingrained part of American life and there is a growing need for lawyers to help combat it," said Jino Ray, director of the MMSP program. "This moment in our nation calls for a full complement of highly trained and dedicated civil rights lawyers prepared to meet the challenges we confront and serve our communities with excellence."

A native of Gallion, Alabama, Moore received his Bachelor of Arts in business administration with a concentration in legal studies from Troy University. While there, he was a student adviser of the University Activities Council, a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity and a member of 101 Elite Men. Additionally, he has worked as a legal assistant at Gibbs & Sellers Law Firm and for Ashley Mallory Attorney at Law.

"Beyond his excellent leadership and overall performance at Troy University, we were particularly impressed with Malik's

commitment to the people of the rural South," Ray said. "Malik brings a unique set of lived experiences that have inspired him to stay close to home and serve the communities that have left an indelible imprint on his life."

To Moore, it is important to enhance the work of Black lawyers and other underrepresented groups in the state of Alabama. "I strongly believe that this program will equip me with the tools and knowledge that will improve the quality of work for all Black lawyers and legal professionals. Receiving this scholarship reminds me that I am headed in the right direction in doing the work that I feel called to do," he said. "I am honored to stand on the shoulders of giants who have been committed to the work of civil rights long before me through organizations like LDF. I answer this call with urgency and an excitement to be alongside people fighting for racial justice."

When he graduates from Cumberland School of Law, Moore plans on staying in the South to continue in the fight for racial justice, particularly in the areas of mass incarceration and prison reform.



Moore

"I hope to use my platform to create opportunities for young people interested in law, as well advocating for many other social and racial justice platforms," he said.

Billy Coplin '77 has known Moore's family from the Demopolis, Alabama, area for more than 30 years. He said, "I have followed Malik's college career and was thrilled he wanted to attend Cumberland. He is one of those rare individuals with the intellect, personality and heart for the least among us that will make an excellent student and outstanding lawyer. He will make Cumberland proud."



# A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY ACTIVITIES



**Ramona C. Albin**

Ramona C. Albin, associate professor of law, participated in a panel titled “The Intersection of Advocacy Programs and the Bar Exam” at the Educating Advocacy Teachers Conference hosted by Stetson University School of Law in June 2022. Her law review article titled “Stereotyping Evidence: The Civil Exception to the Federal Rape Shield Law and its Embedded Sexual Stereotypes,” was published by the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law*.



**LaJuana Davis**

LaJuana Davis, professor of law and director of clinics, was a recipient of the 2021-2022 Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award, which is awarded annually to faculty members for their mastery of subject matter, their ability to convey information effectively to students, their demonstrated enthusiasm for teaching, their commitment to excellence in the classroom, their innovation in teaching techniques and their commitment to students. She was selected for her teaching in first-year Criminal Law and Evidence courses.



**Brannon P. Denning**

In Nov. 2021, Brannon P. Denning, Starnes Professor of Law, was named one of the 20 most-cited young legal scholars in the country in an essay published by the *University of Chicago Law Review*. Comprehensively, the essay lists the 50 most-cited legal scholars, individuals who have had a very notable impact on legal thought and institutions.

In addition, prior to the Supreme Court ruling, Denning served as an expert source for a story that questions whether lawmakers in one state may prohibit people from traveling to another state for an abortion if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Denning’s contribution to the May 2022 article “How a Supreme Court case about pig farms could muddy looming debate over out-of-state abortions” appeared in *USA Today* and *MSN*.



**Chinelo Diké-Minor**

Chinelo Diké-Minor, assistant professor of law, was a recipient of the 2021-2022 Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award, which is awarded annually to faculty members for their mastery of subject matter, their ability to convey information effectively to students, their demonstrated enthusiasm for teaching, their commitment to excellence in the classroom, their innovation in teaching techniques, and their commitment to students. She was selected for her teaching in upper-level Health Law and Criminal Procedure courses.



**Lynn Hogewood '03**

Lynn Hogewood, director of academic support, completed her master’s degree in educational psychology from the University of Alabama with a 4.0 GPA. Hogewood is currently exploring doctoral programs to better provide Cumberland School of Law students the best academic support possible. In addition, she presented “Mindset Matters for Teaching, for Learning, and for Advocacy” to law school deans, program directors and professors at the Association of Academic Support Educators Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in May 2022.



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**Paul Kuruk**

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Paul Kuruk, the Lucille Stewart Beeson Professor of Law, participates as a leader in multilateral trade policy making at the national, regional, continental and global levels. In July 2021, he ended his term as vice-chairman of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the core legal body of the United Nations system in the field of international trade law.

As facilitator of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) of the World Intellectual Property Organization based in Geneva, Switzerland, Kuruk facilitates negotiations in the 191 country-member body to develop an international instrument for the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge, folklore and traditional cultural expressions. In May 2022, he was appointed chair of the Group of Experts on Genetic Resources, and in June he held a book signing at the headquarters in Geneva for his book *Traditional Knowledge, Genetic Resources, Customary Law and Intellectual Property: A Global Primer* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2020), for which he received Cumberland School of Law's 2021-2022 Lightfoot, Franklin & White Scholarship Award.



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**Tim McFarlin**

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In May 2022, associate professor of law Tim McFarlin delivered a lecture titled "A Copyright Ignored? Mark Twain, Mary Ann Cord, and the Meaning of Authorship" in Elmira, New York, as part of the Center for Mark Twain Studies' "The Trouble Begins at Eight" series. The lecture took place at Quarry Farm, the site where Cord told Twain the story that inspired McFarlin's lecture, as well as where Twain wrote some of his most famous works including *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Additionally, "A Copyright Ignored?" was accepted for publication by the *Journal of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A.* The peer-reviewed journal is the leading U.S. law review exclusively devoted to the subject of copyright law.



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**Tracey Roberts**

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In the spring, Samford University's Board of Trustees awarded Tracey Roberts tenure, promotion to professor of law and a

sabbatical for the fall semester of 2022. Roberts presented "Regulatory Taxation Revisited" at Case Western Reserve University School of Law on April 8, at the Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators at Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law on May 13, and at the Society for Environmental Law and Economics at New York University School of Law on June 9. She presented "ESG and ERISA" at ComplianceNet on July 6 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. She presented "Whiskey, Women and Tax" as part of the Critical Tax Theory panel on July 13, and chaired a panel on Tax, Raw Materials and the Environment on July 15 at the Law and Society Association meeting in Lisbon, Portugal. She was invited by University of Virginia Professor Andrew Hayashi and Emory University Professor Allen Calhoun to participate in a Theology and Tax Law conference, Sept. 16-17, and to contribute a chapter to their book project, tentatively titled *Render Unto Caesar*, which provides theological perspectives on tax law.



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**William G. Ross**

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William G. Ross, the Albert P. Brewer Professor of Law and Ethics, was invited by The Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States to provide a written testimony for its study of recent proposals for court reform. Ross was one of 17 legal scholars from across the nation who provided solicited testimony, which has been published on the commission's web page, [whitehouse.gov/pscscotus](https://www.whitehouse.gov/pscscotus).

In spring 2022, Ross published a book chapter, "Elihu Root (1845-1937): Architect and Advocate of the Permanent Court of International Justice," in P. Sean Morris, ed., *The League of Nations and the Development of International Law: A New Intellectual History of the Advisory Committee of Jurists* 112-134 (Routledge, 2022).



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**Laura Taaffe**

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Laura Taaffe was a recipient of the 2021-2022 Harvey S. Jackson Excellence in Teaching Award, which is awarded annually to faculty members for their mastery of subject matter, their ability to convey information effectively to students, their demonstrated enthusiasm for teaching, their commitment to excellence in the classroom, their innovation in teaching techniques, and their commitment to students. She was selected for her instruction in the Lawyering and Legal Reasoning program.





# Cumberland School of Law Granted ABA Accreditation Extension

*By Morgan Black*

**The Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association (ABA) has officially announced reaccreditation for Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. First accredited in 1949, Cumberland School of Law is among only 200 law schools in the nation to achieve such prestigious recognition by the ABA for the traditional Juris Doctor.**

Dean Emeritus Corky Strickland said, "We are pleased that Cumberland continues to be fully approved by the ABA. Our committed faculty and staff work tirelessly and diligently to prepare the next generation of Cumberland lawyers dedicated to professionalism and service. ABA approval assures Cumberland lawyers are eligible for admission to the bar in any state."

The ABA operates to serve its members and the public by defending liberty and delivering justice as the national representative of the legal profession. For more than a century, ABA accreditation has been synonymous with the highest standards in legal education. A substantial and serious process,

fully approved law schools undergo a full site evaluation every 10 years after initial approval, which can sometimes take up to three years to complete.

J. Michael Hardin, Samford's provost and vice president for academic affairs, added, "As a former academic dean, I know the preparation for these reviews is no small task. I extend my congratulations to Corky Strickland for leading the school through this rigorous process. Because of this accreditation extension, Cumberland School of Law is equipped to continue the quality education that is crucial for developing the next generation of leaders in our legal workforce."

# Samford Announces Transformational Gift and State-of-the-Art Recreation, Wellness and Athletic Complex

By Holly Gainer

**This spring, Samford announced two transformational and record-setting initiatives. The first was a \$100 million gift from the estate of Marvin Mann '54, who passed away on March 19. The second was the construction of a state-of-the-art recreation, wellness and athletic complex, which will create a world-class space for students, student-athletes and employees to improve physical fitness and mental wellness.**

## ***\$100 Million Gift from Marvin Mann '54***

The \$100 million gift from Mann is the largest gift to the university by a single donor and the largest gift ever made to a higher education institution in the state of Alabama by a single donor. According to Mann's wishes, \$95 million will go toward endowed student scholarships and \$5 million will support the Frances Marlin Mann Center for Ethics and Leadership, which was established by Mann in 2008 in honor of his late wife, Frances.

Mann, a first-generation college graduate, worked for IBM for 32 years and went on to found Lexmark International, Inc. in 1991, where he served as chief executive officer and chairman until 1999.

The gift is expected to provide approximately \$3.75 million annually to support and expand access to individuals seeking a Samford education. Including both undergraduate and graduate programs, over 100 students will benefit each year.



## ***Recreation, Wellness and Athletic Complex***

Samford will enlarge and renovate existing buildings to create a new, state-of-the-art recreation, wellness and athletic complex. The \$65 million venture is the largest capital project in the university's history.

Construction, which will begin in 2023, includes investments in four separate buildings totaling 154,000 square feet. The complex will include a complete redesign of Seibert Hall, featuring new basketball courts, a multi-use court, studios for fitness classes, state-of-the-art exercise equipment, gathering space for students and much more.

Bashinsky Field House will be a fully refurbished, dedicated facility for student-athletes, including new training and dedicated practice spaces for various programs. A third building will be constructed adjacent to Seibert Hall and will encompass 20,000 square feet of recreation and event space. The new building will include an indoor track, additional basketball courts and cardio spaces, event space, and a pedestrian walkway and covered balcony that overlooks Bobby Bowden Field. The first floor of Dwight and Lucille Beeson Center will be renovated and serve as the new home for the university's health center and counseling services.

The university is funding \$45 million of the project and is working to secure \$20 million in philanthropic gifts. *To learn more about giving to this project, go to [samford.edu/giving](https://samford.edu/giving).*





# Real-World Experience for Law Clinic Students Continues

By Nancy Dorman-Hickson

**Samford University's Cumberland School of Law students have provided valuable support to real clients on legal matters for the past two years. In 2021-2022, some 48 of the 444 students enrolled in Cumberland's J.D. program assisted in nearly 150 cases through Cumberland's four law clinics, the last two of which began in spring 2022. The clinics embody Cumberland's mission of training students to serve their communities, professionally and ethically.**

By providing free assistance to military veterans, persons accused of crimes and persons claiming innocence, students gain legal experience. They learn how to conduct client interviews and investigations, prepare legal documents and gain skills in case evaluation and time management.

## **Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic**

The Cumberland Veterans Legal Assistance Clinic (C-VETS) was one of two clinics first established in 2020, despite COVID-19 restrictions. Offering assistance to service members, military veterans and their families, C-VETS has grown in scope from an initial eight-county region to covering the entire state of Alabama. This past year, 15 students participated in C-VETS, and worked on several expungements for veterans, particularly those who completed a Veterans Treatment Court program. Expungement and all of the services offered give students opportunities to learn about legal realities faced by veterans, including finding affordable counsel.

Judge John Carroll '74 and attorney Wilson Myers, both military veterans, supervised the students. In addition to restoration of voting rights and pardon issues, students aid in such legal issues as consumer debt, landlord-tenant matters, uncontested family law concerns, wills and estates, and the previously mentioned expungements.

"The lessons I've learned from a personal standpoint are endless," said Will Green '22, a spring 2022 C-VETS student advocate. "Maybe the most noteworthy

lesson is that serving others in need requires mental strength in areas such as patience, grace and understanding—all of which extend beyond a mere understanding of the law."

Discharge upgrades is another issue affecting service members, with successful legal intervention leading to eligibility for health care and disability benefits. Before the military and legal system fully appreciated the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health conditions and trauma, service members who were thought to have these circumstances were discharged as "undesirable" or under conditions "other than honorable." The military's increased recognition of how certain conditions may have contributed to situations that led to a veteran's separation



Taylor Payne '22 works with a client at the C-VETS clinic.



Green



Grissett

"I am very thankful for the opportunity to have participated in this clinic," said third-year student Morgan Grissett, a fall 2021 CIC student. "I gained a good bit of practical experience, but more than that, it opened my eyes further to the struggles faced by those made subject to the criminal judicial process. I am always grateful for a shift of perspective and, if I took nothing else away, it would be a new look on life and particularly the criminal justice system."

### **Capital Defense and Criminal Appeals Clinics**

Cumberland's newest clinics—the Capital Defense Clinic and the Criminal Appeals Clinic—were added in spring 2022, both hosted by the Jefferson County Public Defender's Office. A total of 11 students

from the military led to new opportunities to apply for discharge upgrades with the appropriate branch's Discharge Review Board.

"It is very rewarding to see a case move from the first phone call to do intake, all the way to a judgment, one that is hopefully favorable for them," said Taylor Payne '22, a spring 2022 C-VETS student advocate. "This provides a strong rapport between the attorney—or student—and the client, and I believe it gives the client a sense of comfort knowing that someone is looking into their issue and communicating with them directly from start to finish."

### **Cumberland Innocence Clinic**

Students within the Cumberland Innocence Clinic (CIC), which began in fall 2020, evaluate and investigate claims of innocence by Alabama prisoners. The need is great: Alabama has potentially between 1,110 to 1,670 innocent people currently incarcerated, with the fifth-highest prison population per capita in the country. Cumberland School of Law professor and director of clinics LaJuana Davis and adjunct professor Leslie Coyne '91 supervise CIC students' work on Alabama postconviction cases.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, some 15 CIC students reviewed requests from 10 Alabama counties, working on fact investigation, claim assessment, preparation of requests for evidence and working with volunteer counsel. Students used investigative skills to assess innocence and used persuasive writing and speaking skills to craft and present arguments to advance theories of innocence or recommendations for case closure.

participated, five in the Capital Defense Clinic and six in the Criminal Appeals Clinic.

This past spring, Capital Defense Clinic students helped in the early investigation of a capital case and assisted in the preparation for and trial of a second capital case. "The students got to see all the work that goes into investigating a capital case and the finished product in the form of a trial," said clinic supervisor Sammie Shaw, the Jefferson County Deputy Public Defender and a Cumberland adjunct professor. Capital Defense Clinic students worked on litigation tasks, ranging from fact investigation to trial preparation.

Alisha McKay, the defender's appellate attorney for Jefferson County and a Cumberland adjunct professor, supervises the Criminal Appeals Clinic. "Students took part in client meetings, which allowed them to walk our clients through the appellate issues we had identified in their cases," she said. Students in this clinic faced several challenging issues, working on post-trial motions and appeals from Jefferson County criminal convictions, including sentence credit, ineffective assistance of trial counsel, the habitual felony offender act, jury instructions and hearsay.

Funding for the bulk of the four clinics comes from sources external to the law school. Major funders include Stephen B. Moss '68, the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program in Washington, D.C., the Alabama Law Foundation and its executive director, Dawn Hathcock, and cooperating agencies who have given in-kind assistance and supervision, including the Jefferson County Public Defender's Office and Volunteer Lawyers Birmingham.



# Class Notes // COLLECTED JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2022

## 1973

**Judge Houston Brown** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Birmingham Bar Association.

## 1976

**John Beard** is president of the Board of Trustees of the Alabama Nurses Foundation.

## 1977

**Billy Coplin** received the 2022 Fellows Outstanding State Chair Award by the staff and officers of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation.

## 1979

**Judge Clyde E. Jones** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

## 1980

**Anthony Joseph** was selected to serve on the Board of Directors of The Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. Institute. The Johnson Institute develops programming focused on the U.S. Constitution and welcomes visitors to the Frank M. Johnson Courthouse in Montgomery, Alabama.

**Victor Melchiorre** of Indianapolis, Indiana, retired from Greenfield Banking Company as its chief risk officer. He also worked in house for JPMorgan Company for over 30 years.

## 1981

**Elizabeth H. Hutchins** is one of 12 new regents of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) and will serve on the Board of Regents for a three-year term.

**Jim Vann** was named president of Dentons Sirote's Birmingham, Alabama, office.

## 1982

**Roger L. Bates** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

## 1983

**Samuel Campisi** is manager of governance and support for Southern Nuclear Operating Company in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Wendy B. Crew** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

**William G. Hyland Jr.** authored his fourth historical biography, *Thomas Jefferson: Family Secrets*, which may be purchased from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

## 1985

**Lenora W. Pate** was posthumously inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

## 1986

**Lori Martin** was appointed to the Hoover, Alabama, Library Board.

**Thomas R. Sawyer** earned his LL.M. in real property development from the University of Miami and joined Gunster in West Palm Beach, Florida.

## 1987

**Dale Delaney** is an attorney with Jenkins Law PL in Tampa, Florida.

**Evan Jenkins**, former justice and chief justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, joined the law firm his grandfather started almost 100 years ago, Jenkins Fenstermaker, in Huntington, West Virginia. As well, he was named as a West Virginia Bar Foundation Fellow.

**James Moseley Jr.** was elected second vice president of the Maritime Law Association of the United States.

**Thomas Willingham** is a principal of Beasley Allen in Atlanta, Georgia.

## 1988

**Gregory D. Smith** authored the second edition of the *Tennessee Municipal Judges Benchbook* which was released March 25, 2022.

**Michael G. Stewart** attended the Monroeville, Alabama, Literary Capital Writers Festival at the Monroe County Museum. Stewart is the author of four mystery novels, *Sins of the Brother*, *Dog Island*, *A Clean Kill*, and *A Perfect Life*.

## 1989

**Randy Poitevent DeFoor** was elected to be a member of The University of the South's Board of Trustees in Sewanee, Tennessee.

**Denise J. Pomeroy** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

## 1990

**Jennifer M. Busby** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

**Judge Ronnie Thompson** was appointed by Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp to fill a seat on the Ogeechee Judicial Circuit.

## 1991

**K. Phillip Luke** is a partner at Hall Booth Smith in Birmingham, Alabama.

**James S. Williams** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

## 1994

**Ronetta Francis** is vice president of compliance and governance with Citi in Grand Prairie, Texas.

**Robert G. Methvin Jr.** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

**Michael Odom** is a partner/member of McGlinchey Stafford in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 1995

**Don McKenna** is of counsel with Farris, Riley & Pitt in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 1996

**Douglas Baymiller** founded his firm, Douglas Baymiller Law Firm, in Mobile, Alabama.

**Leslie M. Hand** is an associate with Smith, Spires, Peddy, Hamilton & Coleman in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Neal Moore** joined Christian & Small as a partner in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jeff Tickal** won a seat on the 20th Judicial Circuit Court, Lee County, Alabama. He will assume the bench in January 2023.

## 1997

**Judge Elisabeth French** was inducted into the Alabama Lawyers Association Hall of Fame.

**Judge Jonathan Walker** was reappointed to another term as judge of compensation claims in Panama City, Florida.

## 1998

**Noelle Collins** received Cumberland School of Law's inaugural Online Graduate Program Outstanding Instructor Award.

**Lezly Petrovich** is with Degan, Blanchard & Nash in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Howard Walthall Jr.** is the chief executive officer of ProgenaCare Global based in Atlanta, Georgia.

**David Wells** founded Wells Law Firm in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Tam Yelling** was selected to be a member of the Samford University Board of Overseers.

## 1999

**David A. Bright** is claims advocate director and in-house counsel with Harmon Dennis Bradshaw in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jason Johnson** is a commercial trial lawyer with Byrd Campbell in Winter Park, Florida.

**Kary Bryant Wolfe** is chair of the 2022 board members for the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama.

# Class Notes // COLLECTED JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2022

## 2000

**Ashley Dumat** is assistant general counsel for Rutherford County Schools in Tennessee.

**Meg Williams Fielder** was appointed general counsel of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama.

**Demetra Liggins** was selected to be a 2022 Premier Woman in Law by the Association of Women Attorneys of Houston, Texas.

**Stephen Winters** was appointed by Alabama Governor Ivey to be the district attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

## 2002

**Jeremy Hazelton** joined Christian & Small as a partner in Birmingham, Alabama.

**James "Jay" Stewart** is a partner of Heninger Garrison Davis in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2003

**Lynn Hogewood** earned a master's degree in educational psychology from The University of Alabama.

**Emily Baggett Hollingsworth** is an attorney adviser for the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command legal office in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

## 2004

**Josh Bell** is a board member of Creative Montessori School in Homewood, Alabama.

**Jeremy Cutlip** is an insurance compliance manager for HIPPO Insurance in Dallas, Texas.

## 2005

**C. Burton Dunn Jr.** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

## 2006

**Daniel A. Dennis IV** is president of Illustrated Properties in West Palm Beach, Florida.

**Susan Nettles Han** was elected to the 2022 Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association.

**Robert "Bo" Harris II** is a partner of MendenFreiman in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Stephen Hunt** is a shareholder of Cory Watson in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Sara Williams** is president of the National Women Trial Lawyers Association.

## 2007

**G.C. Barnett** is a senior staff attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Keith Blackwood** won the Republican nomination for the Mobile County (Alabama) District Attorney election this fall.

**Stephanie H. Mays** was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

**Mary Leah Miller** is a principal with Beasley Allen in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Robert Nichols** is litigation counsel for CLMG Corp/Beal Bank in Dallas, Texas.

**Randall L. Woodfin**, mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, joined the advisory council of a nonprofit "Do Tank" Accelerator for America. The Accelerator is helping mayors and other leaders best access and invest unprecedented federal funding for our cities. As well, he was a 2022 commencement speaker at Tennessee State University and Samford University Cumberland School of Law.

**Ariel Zion** is vice president and deputy general counsel for Insight Global in Atlanta, Georgia.

## 2008

**Mary Turner Benoist** is a legal integration and due diligence manager, assistant general counsel and senior vice president at Regions in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Ashley McGrane** is vice president of business development at Encompass Health in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jeffrey D. Price** is a principal with Beasley Allen in Montgomery, Alabama.

**Chandler Rohwedder** is senior associate regulatory counsel (state and federal) for AFLAC in Columbus, Georgia.

## 2009

**Bradley Edmonds** is of counsel with Frank Ozment, Attorney at Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Summer McWhorter Summerford** was elected to be the Cherokee County District Attorney (Alabama) effective January 2023.

## 2010

**H. Finn Cox** is claims counsel with Kinsale Insurance Company in Richmond, Virginia.

**Katie Kimbrell** was selected to be a 2022 Innovation Fellow at Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Eddie Koen** is the president of Institution for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C.

**Brandi Maorino** is a partner with Ottinger Law Group in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Ashley Reitz Peinhardt** is a partner of Hare Wynn Newell & Newton and was inducted into the 2021/2022 Birmingham Bar Foundation Classes of Fellows.

**Judge Amanda Rucker** was appointed to be an administrative law judge for the State of Tennessee.

**Brittany Adkins Schaffer** is on the Board of Directors for the Country Music Association in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Tripp Watson** was elected to the 2022 Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association.

**Amanda Williamson** was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee supervising the *In re Paraquat* products liability litigation.

**Josh Wradly** is an attorney adviser for the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington, D.C.

## 2011

**Emily Huntzinger Bowman** is senior manager of PwC's sales program and operations in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Lauren Craig** founded Lauren Craig Law in Clermont, Florida.

**Angel Darmer Croes** is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

**Clark Henderson** founded Henderson Law Firm in Shalimar, Florida.

**Polly Allen Manuel** is a corporate communications manager with Encompass Health in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2012

**Samantha Nicolle Burnett** is a partner of Shook, Hardy & Bacon in San Francisco, California.

**J. Winston Busby** is a shareholder of Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Robert "Rob" T.J. Childers Jr.** is the director of Government Affairs and Public Policy for S&P Global in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland.

**Beth Creutz Dyer** is the federal register liaison in the Internal Revenue Service's Office of Chief Counsel in New Haven, Indiana.

**Leanne Johnston** is an assistant public defender for the Mobile (Alabama) Public Defender's Office.

**Amanda Stevens Joiner** is acting general counsel for the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland.

**Tina Lam** was elected to the 2022 Executive Committee of the Birmingham Bar Association.

**Matthew Potter** is system director of compliance for Bon Secours Mercy Health in Cincinnati, Ohio.



## 2013

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**Claudia Caycho-Acosta** founded Acosta Injury Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Richard Fillmore** is a partner of Cole, Scott & Kissane in Pensacola, Florida.

**Jaclyn Gilbert** is an underwriter at First American Title Company in San Antonio, Texas.

**Abigail Bains Harris** is a shareholder of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Shane Lanham** is a partner of Mahaffey Pickens Tucker in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

**Brannon Parker** is a shareholder of Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Lance Parmer** is senior corporate counsel for Surgical Care Affiliates in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Britt Smith** is a partner of McQuigg, Smith & Corry in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

**Clint Speegle** is a partner of Lightfoot Franklin & White in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Chris Weaver** is an associate at Norman Wood Kendrick & Turner in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2014

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**Paul Bagley** is director of vendor contracts and strategic sourcing for Schellman in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Allen Blow** is a shareholder of Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Trey Bolling** is a shareholder at Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

**P. Andrew Coyle** is an attorney with Patrick, Beard, Schulman & Jacoway in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**J.R. Davidson** is an associate with Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Eleanor Jolley** is of counsel with Wilson Elser in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Michael Lasserre** is a partner of Starnes Davis Florie in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Carter Montgomery** is an associate with Martinson & Beason in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Jackson Neal** is a shareholder with White Arnold & Dowd in Birmingham, Alabama. As well, he is a member of the Birmingham Bar Association's 2022 Future Leaders Forum.

**Ben Odendahl** is a senior adviser with Smith Dawson & Andrews in Washington, D.C.

**Charlie Pond** is vice president of consumer growth initiatives at Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

**John K. Shultz** is an attorney with Wood, Craig & Avery in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Michael Yaworsky** was reappointed by Florida Governor Ron DeSantis to the Florida Gaming Control Commission. The reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

## 2015

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**F. Elizabeth Boyd** is senior claims consultant, with HUB International Insurance Brokers BC in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Katie Fish** is an associate at Chamberlain Hrdlicka in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Sean Vanden Heuvel** is a contracts manager for Northrop Grumman in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Adam McKinney** is adviser of government affairs for the Americas at Air Liquide in Houston, Texas.

**Faye Suggs** is a grants and contracts officer for the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

**Carl Ray "Tripp" Sewell III** founded Sewell Law in Carrollton, Georgia.

## 2016

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**Chase Eley** is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Matthew Hoyle**, through RetroRecords, is releasing his debut album, "Ten Years Gone."

**Asher Kitchings** is an attorney with Morris Manning & Martin in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Alan Moore** is senior counsel for privacy and cybersecurity for the Zillow Group in the metro Washington, D.C., area.

**Brook Robertson** is associate counsel for Construction Partners in Dothan, Alabama.

**Spencer Walker** is an attorney with Danimer Scientific in Bainbridge, Georgia.

## 2017

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**Mary Katherine Flynn Alemany** founded her own practice, Mary Katherine Flynn Alemany, Attorney at Law in Roanoke, Alabama.

**Katie Barnes** is a senior private cross border tax specialist with EY in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Hayden Ford Bashinski** is an associate with Proskauer Rose in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Allen "A.J." Craig Jr.** is an associate at the law office of Thami A. R. Kaddouri in Tampa, Florida.

**Hunter Garnett** is managing partner of Garnett Patterson Injury Lawyers in Huntsville, Alabama.

**Nathan Hall** is an attorney with RxBenefits in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jessica Hart** is a senior lease administrator analyst in CBRE's portfolio services division in Memphis, Tennessee.

**Kimberly Hawkins** is chief of staff for the chief executive officer of Saysh in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Anna Akers Hornsby** is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Riley Murphy** is an associate with Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Trey Perdue** is an attorney with Dentons Sirote in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Patrick Perry** is vice president and senior wealth strategist for PNC Private Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Ariel Roth** is an intellectual property lawyer with MARS in Chicago, Illinois.

**Jordan Thompson** is the growth and development director for Northwestern Mutual in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Alex Parish Underwood** is an associate with Wallace Jordan Ratcliff & Brandt in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Kyle Weaver** is counsel at Carr Allison in Tallahassee, Florida.

**Megan Seaton Whaley** is a human resources manager for Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

## 2018

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**Ashtyne Cole Cofer** is an associate at Denenberg Tuffley in Los Angeles, California.

**Xan Ingram Flowers** is a member of the Birmingham Bar Association's 2022 Future Leaders Forum.

**Hugh Smith** is an associate with McMichael, Taylor & Gray.

**Wesley Walker** is manager of Accenture Public Sector Strategy and Consulting in Houston, Texas.

**Carmen Weite** is a litigation associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Amanda Wineman** is a member of the Birmingham Bar Association's 2022 Future Leaders Forum.

**David Wisdom** is an attorney at Haygood Cleveland Pierce Thompson & Short in Auburn, Alabama.

## 2019

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**Whitney Laine Eiland** is an attorney with King Green & Dobson in Hayden, Alabama.

**Caleb Faulkner** is a member of the Birmingham Bar Association's 2022 Future Leaders Forum.

**Kendall Fann** is an associate at Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Christian Flowers** is an associate with Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Garrett Hartley** is an associate with Lloyd, Gray, Whitehead & Monroe in Birmingham, Alabama.

# Class Notes // COLLECTED JANUARY THROUGH MAY 2022

**Alex Henry** is an associate at Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

**Nelson Craig Johnson** is serving on the board of the Arab Youth Soccer Organization in Arab, Alabama.

**Harrison King** is serving on the Junior Board of On River Time, a nonprofit in Birmingham, Alabama.

**M. Denzell Moton** is a lawyer with Taps & Associates in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Evani Patel** is an associate with Friedman, Framme & Thrush in Wilmington, Delaware.

**Caroline Pennington** founded her firm Caroline Pennington Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Megan P. Richards** is a corporate staff attorney with Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jessica Wolinsky** is an associate with Miller & Martin in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Andrew York** is a lawyer with Townsend Law in Fairhope, Alabama.

## 2020

**E. Kirkland Back** is an associate with Rhea, Boyd & Rhea in Gadsden, Alabama.

**Nicholas Calvin** is deputy director of health and human services for Benito County in Hollister, California.

**Maggie Coan** is a lawyer with Laura Terry Powell Law Firm in Decatur, Alabama.

**Stephanie Smith Johnson** is an associate at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Nicole Ramos Jones** is an ambassador for the Pivot Emerging Leaders Conference.

**Gavin King** served as the chair of the Black College World Series' Montgomery, Alabama Committee and also serves on the board of the Young Lawyers Section of the Montgomery Bar Association.

**Mary Raybon** is an associate with Beasley Allen in Montgomery, Alabama.

## 2021

**Chase Bahr** is an associate with Carr Allison in Mobile, Alabama.

**Auna Bilbo** is an associate with J. Hardy Family Law in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Kalissa Bishop** is a prosecutor for the city of Birmingham, Alabama.

**Carson Smith Campbell** is an associate with Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Chloe Cardwell** completed an LL.M. in tax at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and is a consultant at KPMG in Chicago, Illinois.

**Nicholas Caruso** is assistant general counsel with Atlanticus in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Derek Chen** founded Chen Law in Hoover, Alabama.

**Alexander Makarenko** is an associate with Smith, Spires, Peddy, Hamilton & Coleman in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Mackenzie Meade** is an associate with Michel & King in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Jonathon Pilkington** completed an LL.M. in tax at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law and is a consultant at Deloitte in Chicago, Illinois.

**Sarah Rawls** is a federal judicial clerk for U.S. District Court Judge R. David Proctor of the Northern District of Alabama.

**Hannah Trucks** is an associate with Gentle, Turner & Benson in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Alexa Wallace** is an associate at Beasley Allen in Jacksonville, Florida.

## 2022

**Kelsey Cain** is associate compliance officer with Bradford Health Services in Birmingham, Alabama.

**Tyler Flowers** received Cumberland School of Law's Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award.

## Marriages

**Nathaniel Hall '17** married Sara Robinson, Dec. 3, 2021.

**Trey Perdue '17** and **Olivia Johnson '19** were married Dec. 11, 2021.

**Zach Permenter '20** and **Haiden Redmond '20** were married Feb. 25, 2022.

**Abby Blankenship '21** and **Adam Pflaum '22** were married Feb. 26, 2022.

**Richard Sarrell II '16** married Katherine O'Neal, March 12, 2022.

**Depri Hale '17** married Adam Kruetzer, March 12, 2022.

**Nicole Sodoma '00** married George Kelada, April 1, 2022.

**Averie Armstead '19** married Cole Jones, April 15, 2022.

**Kalissa Bishop '21** married Bryan Thompson April 30, 2022.

**Taylor Sims '22** and **Fran Pecci '22** were married May 14, 2022.

## Births

**Cam Ward '96** and Lindsey Ward welcomed their son, Robert Toxey, on Jan. 12, 2021.

**Chandler Kirby '15** and **Sara Fuston Kirby '16** welcomed their son, Hudson Tyrus, on Sept. 14, 2021.

**E. Kirkland Back '20** and Morgan Cunningham welcomed their son, John Eris, on Oct. 30, 2021.

**Ashley Sawyer Heredia '08** and Hannibal Frank Heredia welcomed their daughter, Sophia Isabel, on Dec. 8, 2021.

**Bill McCorquodale '12** and Heather McCorquodale welcomed their daughter on Dec. 13, 2021.

**Lanier Savage Felton '19** and Jeff Felton welcomed their daughter, Nora Mitchell, on Dec. 21, 2021.

**Jennifer Reynolds Bray '13** and **M. Bert Bray IV '13** welcomed their son, Maury Bert Bray V, on Jan. 10, 2022.

**Kaylie Eichholt Becker '17** and Garrett Becker welcomed their daughter, Emma, on Jan. 25, 2022.

**Megan Moore Kelly '18** and Richard Kelly welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Rea, on Jan. 28, 2022.

**Mark Robinson '09** and Moriah Robinson welcomed their son, John Jay, on Jan. 30, 2022.

**Jay Hartin '10** and **Lauren Ellison Hartin '10** welcomed their son, Colton James, on Feb. 14, 2022.

**Brittany Adkins Schaffer '10** and **T.J. Schaffer '10** welcomed their son, Tate Joseph, Feb. 27, 2022.

**Rachel Goodson Jones '10** and Ryan Jones welcomed their daughter, Audrey Gail, Feb. 27, 2022.

**Brittany Tedford Byrd '13** and Tyler Byrd welcomed their daughter, Emma Margaret, March 9, 2022.

**David Wisdom '18** and Amanda Wisdom welcomed their son, Samford James, March 14, 2022.

**Rod Evans '10** and Cornesha Evans welcomed their daughter, Mya Lily, March 22, 2022.

**Curtis Seal '17** and Katherine Seal welcomed their daughter, Collins Elizabeth, on March 24, 2022.

**Tam Yelling '98** welcomed her daughter, Madeline Elise, on April 3, 2022.

**Katherine Beall Cates '14** and Andrew Cates welcomed their son, Davis Cates, on April 21, 2022.

**Heather Searcy Fly '11** and Michael Fly welcomed their son, Crew Harrington, on April 26, 2022.

**Allie Boller Lursen '12** and Matt Lursen welcomed their son, Thomas Bradford, on April 29, 2022.

**Jonathan Jenkins '22** and Alden Jenkins welcomed their son, William "Hayes," on May 2, 2022.

**Aubrey Gordon '14** and **Franziska Abbott Gordon '14** welcomed their daughter, Hallie Frances, on May 18, 2022.

**Dylan Martin '21**, and Mary Frances Martin welcomed their twin daughters, Beatrice Emerson and Elizabeth Blake, on May 25, 2022.



## In Memoriam

**Millard Oakley '51**, of Livingston, Tennessee, died April 21, 2022.

**Stanley Daniel Kupiszewski Jr. '62**, of Tallahassee, Florida, died Feb. 16, 2022.

**Thomas "Tommy" Lee Rountree '66**, of Oneonta, Alabama, died Dec. 24, 2021.

**Taylor D. "Red" Wilkins Jr. '66**, of Bay Minette, Alabama, died Feb. 12, 2022.

**Robert Murphy McGehee '66**, of Gainesville, Florida, died March 24, 2022.

**Larry Keener '67**, of Gadsden, Alabama, died April 14, 2022.

**Marshall Alston Keith Jr. '69**, of Selma, Alabama, died March 1, 2022.

**Donald A. Stewart '69**, of Sarasota, Florida, died April 19, 2022.

**Robert "Glenn" Woodard '70**, of Blountsville, Alabama, and Tyler, Texas, died Feb. 10, 2022.

**Judge Robert Kenneth "Ken" Coleman '70**, of New Albany, Mississippi, died Jan. 25, 2022.

**Jack B. McNamee '71**, of Birmingham, Alabama, died May 2, 2022.

**Thomas L. Foster '72**, of Trussville, Alabama, died Dec. 23, 2021.

**Jack W. Flynn '74**, of Frankfurt, Kentucky, died Dec. 23, 2021.

**Michael P.A. Williams '74**, of Gilford, Connecticut, and Charlottesville, Virginia, died March 26, 2022.

**Robert A. Jones Jr. '75**, of Birmingham, Alabama, died Jan. 14, 2022.

**James C. Bernard '76**, of Columbus, Georgia, died May 6, 2022.

Former Cumberland faculty member **Carolyn Ingram**, married to **Charles Ingram '78**, of Kenansville, North Carolina, died March 9, 2022.

**H. Garold Jordan '79**, of Marietta and Maysville, Georgia, died Dec. 3, 2021.

**Phillip A. Laird Sr. '79**, of Jasper, Alabama, died March 23, 2022.

**Ronald Clarence Higgins '81**, of Gadsden, Alabama, died May 19, 2022.

**Donald O. Henderson '85**, of Oriental, North Carolina, died Feb. 1, 2022.

**Gregory D. Toth '86**, of Mishawaka, Indiana, died May 16, 2022.

**Melissa Whitted '89**, of Panama City, Florida, died Feb. 2, 2022.

**Wendy Atkins Pierce '90**, of Fairhope, Alabama, died June 30, 2021.

**Robert "Bob" D. Campbell '91**, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, died Feb. 7, 2022.

**Joseph Andrew Crumpton '09**, of Birmingham, Alabama, and Toccoa, Georgia, died Dec. 19, 2021.

**Submit your news at [samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info](https://samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info).**



## An Update from *Cumberland's Academic Support Program*

By Lynn Hogewood

This summer the Academic Support Program rolled out a new pre-1L series titled "The Winding Road to Build a Foundation" for the class of 2025. The series ran four weeks before the start of orientation, working through early skills for law school learning: critical thinking and reading skills, reading and briefing cases, listening and taking notes, reviewing and studying with outlines, mind-maps, flashcards and self-assessments, and self-reflecting to enhance mental health and well-being through law school.

During orientation, students built on the foundation for learning and participated in activities to promote growth with self-awareness and perspective-taking. The series will continue with traditional programming through the first and second-year curriculum. Then, in the third year, like the class of 2022, all students have early access to resources and courses for Bar exam success with a bridge to the Bar exam series.

In addition to new programming, Academic Support Advisors of second- and third-year students are conducting study hall and question and answer sessions with first-year students, and the program continues to address the needs of students in a holistic and mindful manner.



**Scan the QR code to learn more about Cumberland's Academic Support Program.**




# *Serve Day* 2022

First-year students participated in the school's annual serve day as a part of orientation. The 146-person class volunteered at 10 sites around Birmingham.





A photograph of Kim Davey, a woman with dark hair, wearing a black top and a necklace, standing in a classroom with desks and chairs in the background.

Kim Davey, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.A.

Associate Professor, Samford University School of Public Health  
Adjunct Professor in the Health Law and Compliance Concentration

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**We are planning and holding alumni network gatherings on a consistent basis around the Southeast. For a current list of events, go to Cumberland School of Law's event website: [samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/events](http://samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/events)**

Follow Cumberland School of Law on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@cumberlandlaw) and connect with us on LinkedIn.

- *If you'd like to host or sponsor an alumni event, please contact Anne Marovich at [amarovic@samford.edu](mailto:amarovic@samford.edu).*
- *If you've moved, changed roles, received an honor or award, please submit your good news or change in contact information by going to [samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info](http://samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info).*
- *If you would like information about a scholarship, a fund, or a designated area to which you may direct a financial contribution, please call 205-726-2443.*

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Together, we are stronger.**