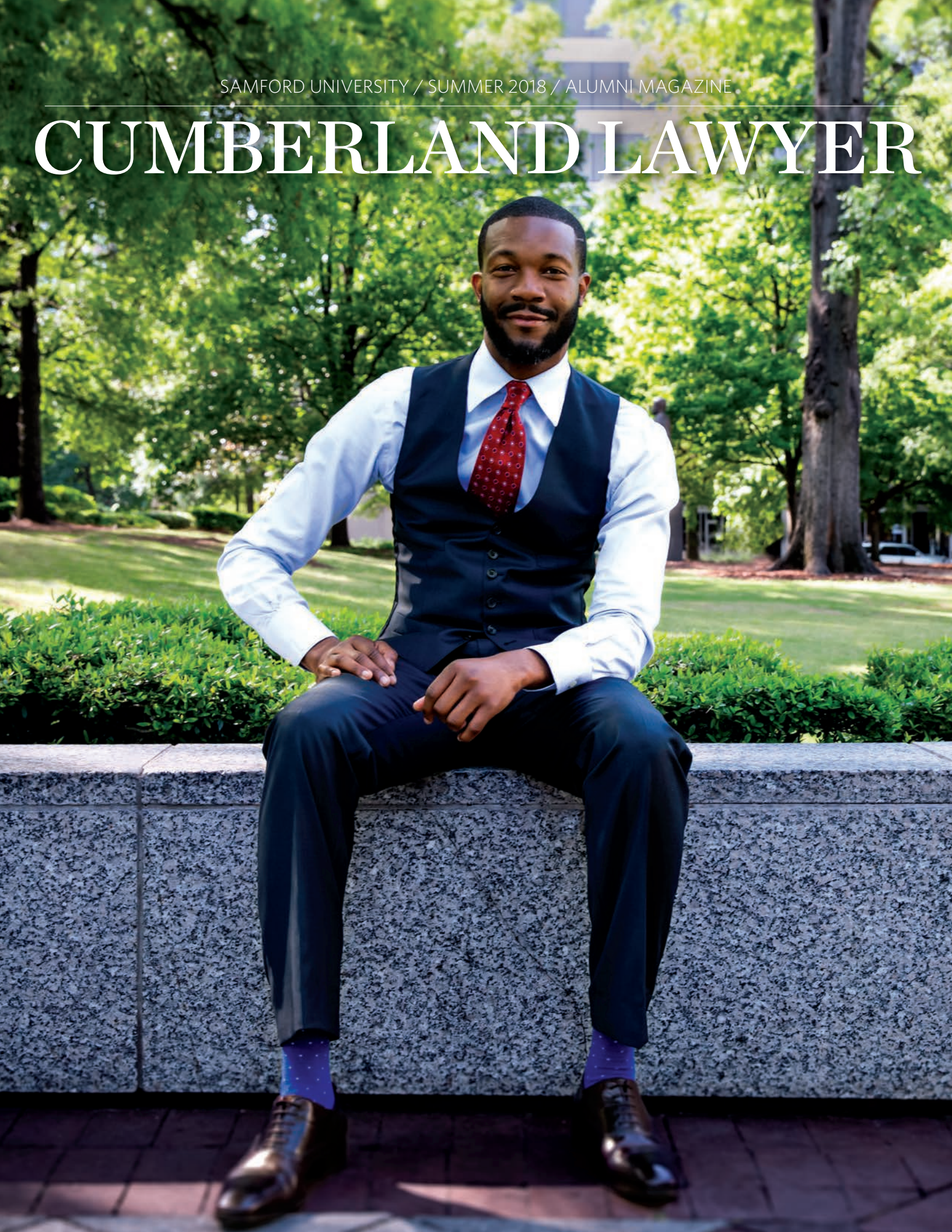


SAMFORD UNIVERSITY / SUMMER 2018 / ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CUMBERLAND LAWYER





December 2017 Commencement

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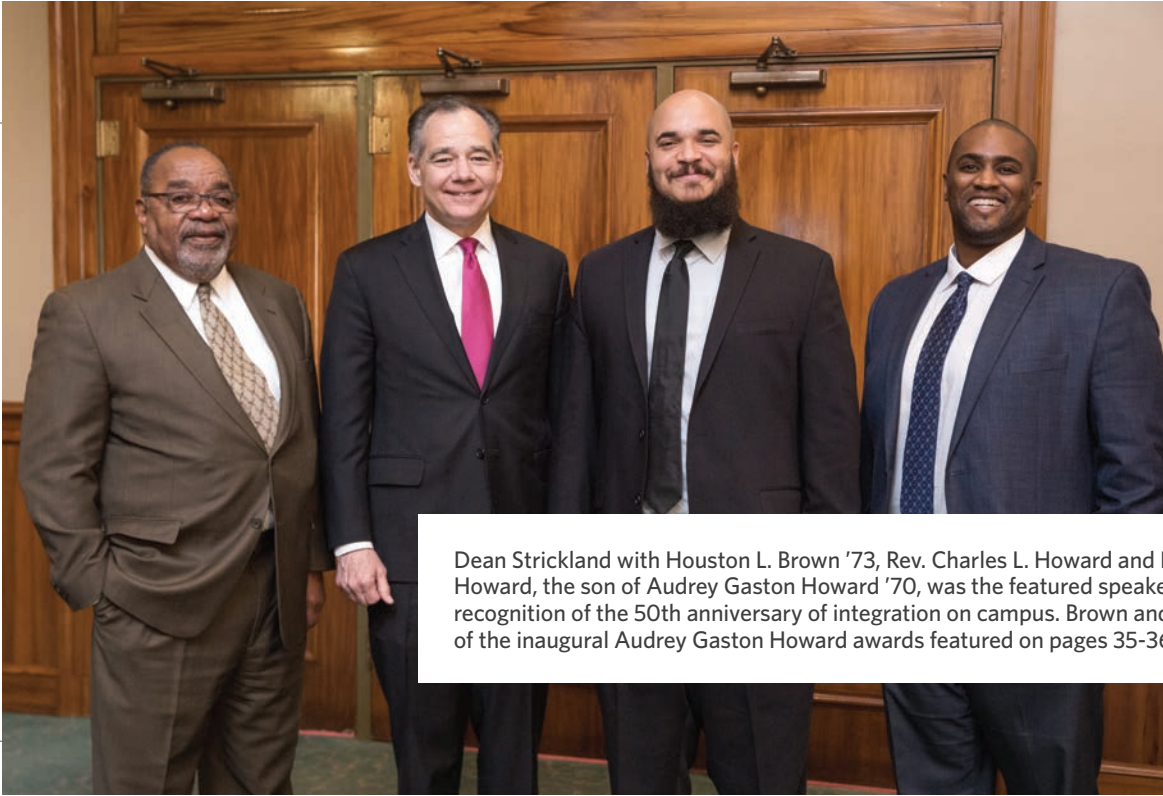
Creative Services
Sarah Howard
Laine Williams

Pictured on the left:
Chris Clark happily accepts his
diploma during the December 2017
commencement ceremony.

Cover photograph:
Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin
'07 in Linn Park outside of
Birmingham City Hall.

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 need your feedback. We welcome your feedback at cumberlandlawyer@samford.edu.

FROM THE DEAN



Dean Strickland with Houston L. Brown '73, Rev. Charles L. Howard and Roderick Evans '10. Howard, the son of Audrey Gaston Howard '70, was the featured speaker for Samford's recognition of the 50th anniversary of integration on campus. Brown and Evans were recipients of the inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard awards featured on pages 35-36.

This year, Cumberland School of Law and its alumni continued in grand fashion two traditions that are at the core of the school's culture and mission: public service and excellence in advocacy. The year saw great new accomplishment in both areas. The two converged in April as we held Cumberland's inaugural advocacy benefit and began laying a foundation to assure these traditions continue and strengthen in the future. I encourage all Cumberland alumni and friends to join us in building that future.

Cumberland has an impressive tradition of alumni serving their communities in elected office and other positions of public service. Alumni serving in public office include a U.S. secretary of state, two U.S. Supreme Court justices, some 16 governors, 11 U.S. senators, approximately 80 Congress men and women (including five sitting members of the U.S. House of Representatives), and countless judges, state legislators and other public servants. Two more alumni won high profile elections last year to join that proud tradition. Mayor Randall L. Woodfin '07, who is pictured on the cover, became the city of Birmingham's youngest mayor since the 19th century; and Senator Doug Jones '79 won a nationally watched race to become a member of the U.S. Senate. Countless other alumni

continue public service in both governmental and private organizations.

Cumberland has another great tradition of producing exceptional advocates who provide outstanding representation to their clients and who make a difference in people's lives. Cumberland students and coaches have created a nationally recognized legacy of championships and professionalism in advocacy competitions. This year's teams added to that legacy by winning three national trial competitions and sweeping the National Trial Competition Regionals, making the finals in one regional moot court competition, earning best advocate honors in another, winning a regional mediation competition, and placing third in the national competition. These accomplishments are featured on page 22.

Cumberland's grand traditions of public service and excellence in advocacy converged at our inaugural advocacy benefit held April 6. The benefit celebrated the legacy of our nationally acclaimed advocacy program and honored the achievements of our current teams and coaches. Senator Doug Jones '79 delivered the keynote address, noting the important role his own advocacy experience at

Public Service, Advocacy and Campaign

Cumberland played in preparing him for his career. Accomplished alumni of our advocacy program eloquently described the program's life-changing impact, and Professor Ramona Albin, the program's director, described the program's commitment to excellence, professionalism and people.

As part of the current campaign for Cumberland, one goal of the advocacy benefit was to build the foundation for even greater accomplishment, and to propel the advocacy program to even greater success. In my remarks at the benefit, I quoted Samford President Andrew Westmoreland's frequent statement that "we sit in the shade of trees we did not plant." I love that sentence because it captures very simply the debt we owe those who went before us and who made our success possible, and the obligation we have to provide the same support for future generations. Cumberland's part of the *Forever Samford* campaign seeks to do just that: plant the trees that will enable us to continue preparing great advocates and to continue our tradition of public service through the 21st century and beyond. The benefit, and the generous alumni and friends who attended and sponsored the event, helped dig the holes and prepare the soil for us to begin

planting those trees.

I hope every alumnus and friend of Cumberland will now join us in planting the trees that will serve the next generation of Cumberland students. To that end, please consider participating in the Bishop Society and the campaign for Cumberland. You may contribute to one of the campaign's priority goals (funding additional student scholarships, renovating the law school's classrooms and common areas, and growing the school's Center for Advocacy Education) or some other aspect of the law school that is important to you. In doing so, you will support our law school, contribute to the success and service of future Cumberland lawyers, and promote the rule of law and the future of our country.

Sincerely,



Henry C. (Corky) Strickland III



Samford University's Cumberland School of Law hosted its inaugural advocacy benefit on Friday, April 6, with special guest and keynote speaker, United States Senator Doug Jones, a Cumberland alumnus from the class of 1979. The benefit celebrated the tradition of excellence in advocacy education in the law school and supported efforts to maintain this excellent tradition for many years to come.

Established in 1847, Cumberland School of Law is one of the oldest law schools in the country. The school was founded by Judge Abraham Caruthers, an innovator in legal education. In a time when legal study was conducted by apprenticeship or through lectures, the law school pioneered an instructional method based on intensive trial practice. This laid the foundation for what is today widely acclaimed as one of the nation's finest programs in trial advocacy. In 2018, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Cumberland School of Law 10th among all U.S. law schools for its trial advocacy program.

"Advocacy is at the core of all law practice," said Dean Henry C. Strickland III. "Throughout its history, Cumberland has excelled at preparing lawyers to be great advocates. As the digital age continues to alter the way we live and interact, the importance of outstanding advocacy remains unchanged. The communication media and the tools advocates use change, but the essential role of the lawyer-advocate remains as critical as ever. To continue preparing great advocates for the 21st century and remain a leader in advocacy education, Cumberland must grow and expand its advocacy program. That growth will require innovation, resources and hard work."

The 2017-18 academic year successes of the advocacy teams include: the National Civil Trial Competition champion, the National Trial Advocacy Competition champion, Florida National Trial Advocacy Competition champion, regional winner of the National Trial Competition, the American Bar Association (ABA) Regional Mediation Competition champion, third place at the National



United States Senator Doug Jones '79

**Addresses Cumberland School of Law
Inaugural Advocacy Benefit** *by Morgan Black*

Mediation Competition, finalist in the Duberstein National Bankruptcy Competition, and Best Oralist in the Regional ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition.

Senator Jones commented, "Cumberland has always had a great reputation. For those of us who like trial work, for those of us who like advocacy work, seeing those teams year in and year out perform and excel the way they do is a true source of pride and it's something not only the law school can be proud of, I think the state of Alabama can be proud of what these kids bring home."

Award-winning news anchor and journalist Pam Huff from Birmingham's ABC affiliate served as the emcee. Huff's husband, U.S. Attorney William Simpson, is a 1980 Cumberland graduate. Dinner was provided by James Beard Award semifinalist Chef Rob McDaniel of SpringHouse Restaurant in Alexander City.

"We have a commitment to help our advocates grow as people and as lawyers," said Professor Ramona Albin, director of advocacy programs. "We want to be the leader in advocacy education in the

21st century. The benefit was just the start of that effort."

Sponsors who helped ensure the success of the event included: Beasley Allen Law Firm; Burr & Forman; Cory Watson Attorneys; Marsh, Rickard & Bryan PC; Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP; Mike Papantonio/Levin Papantonio; Alexander Shunnarah Personal Injury Attorneys; Balch & Bingham LLP; Friedman, Dazzio, Zulanas & Bowling PC; Haynes & Haynes PC; Heninger Garrison Davis LLC; Sean S. Modjarrad '00; Shelby Roden LLC; Wrady & Michel LLC; Campbell Guin LLC; The Coggin Law Firm LLC; Corporate Homie LLC; Goldasich & Associates LLC; Henry C. (Corky) and Anne R. Strickland; Hollis, Wright, Clay & Vail PC; Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC; Starnes Davis Florie LLP; and White Arnold & Dowd PC.



FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

I spend a significant amount of time counseling students about how to meet potential employers or mentors. Oftentimes, law students are unaware of the high number of nontraditional legal-related careers that exist and the breadth of diverse professions represented by our alumni. Each time we hold an alumni gathering, I am reminded of this diversity and the endless possibilities our law degree provides. Students are inspired and motivated to learn about Cumberland School of Law alumni working in such different workplaces.

Most recently, we held alumni gatherings in Washington, D.C., and Montgomery, Alabama. At the D.C. reception, guests included Cumberland lawyers who are currently serving as United States representatives, one United States senator, those working as lobbyists, legislative aides, judge advocate generals, counsel with the United States Patent & Trademark Office, judicial clerks, private business owners and public servants. I am especially proud of young alumni such as Mary-Thomas Hart '17, deputy environmental counsel with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and Laura

Guarino Cunliffe '12, special assistant to the president for domestic policy, who particularly inspire law students to think "outside the box" and apply for that opportunity that might seem out of reach. In Montgomery, we recognized the Honorable Julia Jordan Weller '88, clerk of the Alabama Supreme Court, for her service to the bench, bar and community. Weller is the first permanent female clerk of our highest state court. Her esteemed service is an inspiration to all.

I hope you will take the opportunity to read the Alumni News and Class Notes section near the end of this issue to learn more about what Cumberland lawyers are doing. And, I welcome your "good news" to include in the next issue.

Have a wonderful summer!

Anne Marovich
Director of Alumni Relations

Save *the* Date

Jere F. White Jr.
Trial Advocacy Institute

Six CLE Credits Available
Sheraton Hotel • Birmingham, Alabama

Registration will be available on July 1, 2018
samford.edu/go/advocacy-institute

Nov.
9
2018

December 2017 Commencement by Morgan Black



Cumberland School of Law held a joint ceremony with Samford University's College of Health Sciences on Dec. 16, 2017. Samford President Andrew Westmoreland served as the winter commencement speaker.

In his brief address, Westmoreland shared words of wisdom from his 60-year career. In short, he said, "Respect everyone. That's it. That is the summary of much of what I've learned across the arc of 60 years. Respect everyone. Two words that mean the difference between harmony and chaos, and trust and fear, and success and failure, and happiness and despair, and helpfulness and obstructionism. You've earned a degree, and we're recognizing and celebrating that today because it is a big deal and you've spent, or someone who loves you has spent, a lot of money, and you've invested an extraordinary amount of time in attaining the degree. We are justifiably proud, and we believe that you are going to put the degree to good use and that the world will be better for all the

things you will do. But if you haven't learned to respect everyone, our delivery of a Samford education will have been substandard, and we will have failed you . . . Respect everyone. The lesson is simple and profound, and it may have more to do with your success and your happiness and your substance than anything that you've spent thousands of dollars to receive at Samford. Remember the words always, but especially in the fractured moments when others are not respecting you, when you are under assault, when you are weary, when all you want to do is to lash out and return slight for slight, insult for insult, and hurt for hurt."

At the ceremony, 27 individuals received degrees from Cumberland School of Law including Juris Doctor, Master of Comparative Law and Master of Science.



Photo Credit: City of Birmingham

Lessons in Law, Life by Mayor Randall Woodfin and Servant Leadership

*A Reflection on a Cumberland Education by
Birmingham's 30th Mayor, Randall Woodfin '07*

Sometimes you have to speak your dreams into existence. Fifteen years ago I was ready for a new challenge, one that would help me to evolve into a better leader—and a better person. I submitted a personal statement to Cumberland School of Law as part of the application process and, yes, I still have a copy of that very statement today.

In it, I wrote these words:

"Cumberland School of Law asserts that a portion of its mission is to develop in its students a sensitivity to the needs and concerns of people, an understanding of a lawyer's duty to serve, and the will to be responsible leaders in the community.

"I view law as the prime vehicle for change in my community, and my desire is to adequately represent my community with the same conviction and justice I have asserted in my own personal experiences. I believe Cumberland School of Law will shape my vision and commitment to the city of Birmingham."

I titled that personal statement "Servant Leadership." Fifteen years later, servant leadership is the driving force behind my vision as mayor of Birmingham. It's amazing how things come full circle.

I'm a proud son of Birmingham. I grew up in North Birmingham, lived in Crestwood and spent time with relatives from all over Birmingham's map, from Collegeville

to West End to Mason City to Fountain Heights. It helped foster my love of all of Birmingham's 99 neighborhoods and the wonderful people who called them home.

So after graduating from Morehouse College, where I concentrated my studies in political theory, government and law, I knew I needed more. I was drawn to law—I needed to know more about the rules that govern us and how those can be used to uplift our community, not divide it. I also knew I wanted to stay in Birmingham. It's where my heart resided.

So Cumberland Law was my destiny.

Don't get me wrong—the first year of Cumberland was hard. But that challenge fueled me. It didn't take long for me to foster genuine relationships with upperclassmen and support staff. And perhaps most importantly, it sharpened my legal acumen.

From the day I stepped foot inside Cumberland's hallways, I viewed law as the prime vehicle for social change in our community. It still rings true today as part of my mission of "Putting People First" in Birmingham.

Since I accepted the charge to lead Birmingham, my team and I have used that passion to target blight in our community, and level those long-vacant buildings that have been a source of shame for many. I've worked tirelessly alongside members of the Birmingham City Council to come to a consensus on a deal that will support expansion of the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, including a downtown stadium and renovation of Legacy Arena. I've committed to creating a new office in the very near future—the Office of Social Justice and Racial Equity—to protect citizens of all walks of life, in the spirit of the civil rights movement that was birthed here on our very streets. It's all part of the foundation that was first laid at Cumberland.

Students, I know it gets hard. I've experienced those long nights and early mornings. But remember, you don't have to participate in the rat race, you can run your own race. Stand your ground. Push forward. Uplift your community. It's servant leadership—the best lesson Cumberland taught me.



"Don't get me wrong—the first year of Cumberland was hard. But that challenge fueled me. It didn't take long for me to foster genuine relationships with upperclassmen and support staff. And perhaps most importantly, it sharpened my legal acumen."

-Mayor Woodfin

Joey Page

Rising Third-year Law Student

Joey Page is a rising third-year law student and a first lieutenant in the United States Army National Guard. Joey joined the Army in 2012 and was later commissioned from Auburn University's ROTC Program before assignment to the 1-167 Infantry in Talladega, Alabama. Upon graduation from law school, Joey plans to transfer to the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he will continue his military service in the Alabama Army National Guard.

Joey came to law school because he saw a career in law as an opportunity for service, and he wants to spend his career helping the underprivileged and underrepresented people in society.

He has spent his summers interning at the Jefferson County Public Defender's Office, and has developed a passion for criminal defense, specifically indigent criminal defense. He hopes to carry this dedication and passion for service with him in his career in law.

In addition to his military commitments, Joey is involved with several student organizations at Cumberland. He is president of Cumberland's Public Interest and Community Service Organization, president of Cumberland's Military Justice Society, and has been on leadership for Samford's Campus Veteran's Association. Joey is also active in his community and volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham.

Joey is a die-hard Atlanta sports fan and loves spending his free time relaxing and enjoying everything that Birmingham has to offer with his wife, Kinsey, who is a registered nurse at UAB Hospital. He loves the community that Cumberland, and in extension Birmingham, has to offer, and is proud to follow in the footsteps of many great Cumberland lawyers that have come before him.

Holly Howell

May 2018 Graduate

Holly Howell is the first to graduate from Cumberland School of Law's 3/3 accelerated law degree program. Holly was accepted to law school during her junior year at Samford University, where she studied both history and Spanish. Instead of completing her last year of undergraduate studies, she started law school a year early. At the end of her 1L year, she officially graduated summa cum laude with the Samford University Class of 2016. Holly explained that she had always known that she wanted to go to law school, so the 3/3 program was such a blessing and could not have come about at a more perfect time.

During her time in law school, Holly has been very involved in various campus organizations, but none more than the *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, one of the two law review publications at Cumberland. After writing on to the journal following her 1L year, she received the Vulcan Materials Award for writing the most outstanding candidate's paper, as well as the award given to the candidate who scored the highest on the Bluebook skills test. During her 2L year, she served as an associate editor for the journal. Perhaps her greatest involvement, and certainly the greatest honor she has attained throughout law school, was becoming editor-in-

chief of the publication during her 3L year. Holding this position was often challenging, but she credits the opportunity with helping her to hone her skills in leadership as well as in the art of legal writing.

Another notable honor Holly earned during her time in law school was won, not in the classroom, but during law week. She and her puppies, appropriately named Big and Little Howell, were the two-time winners of the "Dogs who Look Most like their Owner" award on Rascal Day 2016 and 2017.

Holly said, "I know that Cumberland School of Law has prepared me to be successful and I am so thankful to the faculty and staff, especially the members of the LLR department who taught me so much. In fact, my dream job would be to return to Cumberland one day as an LLR professor. "I am so thankful to the professors who mentored me as a law student and helped shape my future as a lawyer."

Holly is from Birmingham where she will remain after graduation. She will sit for the 2018 Alabama Bar Exam in July and is engaged to be married in December.

Isabel Montoya- Minisee

Rising Third-year Law Student

As a non-traditional student, my various life experiences are the motivation for my pursuit of a law degree. First, I am the mother of six amazing children. I adopted two of my children through state-sponsored foster care. Going through the adoption process was moving and eye opening and gave me the conviction to become a court appointed juvenile advocate in Huntsville, Alabama. My experience as an advocate for children in foster care ignited a passion inside of me to pursue a law degree.

Unfortunately, many children in foster care also need an advocate in criminal defense. Because I grew up in a similarly challenging environment, I understand the trials these children face that can lead them to delinquent behavior. I was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, an impoverished city with one of the highest violent crime rates in the nation. Because I have experienced and witnessed both sides of violent crime, I am in a unique position to serve in this area.

Finally, the pride I have in my Hispanic heritage compels me to serve the immigrant community, especially in the current, highly charged atmosphere. My desire is to use my passion, my legal education and my advocacy skills to help local families stay united so they, too, can pursue the American dream we all strive for.

I have been privileged to serve as a legal intern for, and be mentored by, the Honorable Claude E. Hundley III, district judge for Madison County, Alabama, and the Honorable Herman N. Johnson Jr., United States magistrate judge for the Northern District of Alabama. Studying law at Cumberland is one of the highlights of my life. I am grateful to God, my amazing husband and the incredible Cumberland faculty and staff.



Isabel is from Colorado, but resides in Huntsville, Alabama. Her ability to stay focused on her purpose makes her four-hour, daily commute for school worthwhile. She has an undergraduate degree in political science and Spanish from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. At Cumberland, Isabel is a member of the Hispanic Interest Law Student Association, Street Law Program, Women in Law, Career Development Advisory Board and the Henry Upson Sims Moot Court Board.

In Memory of by Lindsey Catlett '18 **Belle Howe Stoddard '78**

“We need women who are so strong they can be gentle, so educated they can be humble, so fierce they can be compassionate, so passionate they can be rational, and so disciplined they can be free.” –Kavita Ramdas

Belle Stoddard was a woman strong enough to carry others' burdens, and gentle enough to deliver chocolate to bedraggled students in the Lucille Steward Beeson Law Library. She was educated enough to teach emerging legal scholars the art of research and writing, yet humble enough to dress up as Cruella Deville and lead a parade of dogs through campus. She was fierce enough to conquer the legal field while raising her beloved family, and compassionate enough to share her life lessons with students from all walks of life. She was passionate enough to stand up against injustice, and yet rational enough to discuss the nuances of politics and religion with every student who sat in her office. She was disciplined enough to invest in the lost art of letter writing, and yet free enough to dress a plastic goose in seasonal attire to keep watch over Cumberland's courtyard.



Whether we knew Belle Stoddard as a classmate, colleague or professor, one common thread ran throughout all of her relationships: she loved each person whose path she crossed like family. Her office, which included a Ten Commandments clock, shelves overflowing with books, and a saber hanging nonchalantly on the coat rack, was a “home away from home” for many law students. On behalf of Cumberland School of Law, I would like to thank Professor Belle Stoddard for sharing her vibrant life with us and graciously welcoming us, embodying every bit of Charleston southern hospitality, into her family.

Alumna Accepts Role as Special Assistant to the President for the Domestic Policy Council



Following graduation from Cumberland School of Law in May 2012, Laura Guarino Cunliffe entered the highly selective U.S. Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) program, through which she served as a policy analyst for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). In her role as an analyst in the Child Nutrition Policy office, Laura drafted regulations, developed sub-regulatory guidance and

met with key stakeholders on a range of school program issues. Fellows are required to fulfill a developmental detail during their tenure. Laura spent four months as a detailee at the U.S. Department of Education, and performed grant management tasks,

developed program review surveys and analyzed data for grantees and program staff.

Following her policy analyst position, Laura remained with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, and Child Nutrition Programs as the acting special assistant to the deputy administrator. This position included multiple leadership, coordination, and collaboration responsibilities for Child and Nutrition Programs and Food and Nutrition Services. Laura then began her position as special assistant to the director for policy and program development within the same department at USDA, and was subsequently detailed to the Domestic Policy Council in the Executive Office of the President at the White House as an adviser on food and nutrition programs.

Most recently, Laura accepted a position as special assistant to the president for the Domestic Policy Council. In this role, Laura serves as a senior level policy adviser for the administration through coordination of a number of topic areas, including welfare, food and nutrition, and child welfare issues.

Cumberland Professor

Appointed as Facilitator of the Intergovernmental Committee of the World Intellectual Property Organization *by Morgan Black*



Samford University's Cumberland School of Law has once again been recognized on a global level as one of its professors has been chosen to serve in an international leadership position. Professor Paul Kuruk has been appointed as the facilitator of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC) of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Established in 1967, WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation. It is a self-funded agency of the United Nations with representatives from 191 countries that operates with a mission "to lead the development of a balanced and effective international intellectual property system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all."

Kuruk will play a crucial role within the IGC in shaping the agenda, clarifying issues, developing consensus, and preparing and revising the text emerging from a complex process of negotiation. "The negotiations at the IGC have come about due to the need to develop an international instrument to counter the misappropriation or unauthorized use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples," said Kuruk. "It is my responsibility to work to develop a consensus on all outstanding issues in the work of the IGC related to the protection of intellectual property, genetic resources and traditional knowledge."

Kuruk said issues that the IGC faces include: the nature of the instrument to be adopted, whether it should be binding on member states or merely provide general guidelines and therefore not binding; the objectives, scope and subject-matter to be covered under the instrument; whether to provide for an obligation to require applicants for intellectual property rights to disclose the source or

origin of traditional knowledge they have used in developing their invention or other creative work; whether to impose sanctions including revocation of intellectual property rights if the disclosure obligation is not met; and whether to require use of databases to complement or as an alternative to the disclosure requirement. The assumption underlying these approaches is that the information to be disclosed or contained in the databases could be used by the relevant stakeholders to demand a sharing of benefits derived from the exploitation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge related to the information.

"I am looking forward to working to narrow the gaps in the current draft text of the international instrument which is rather lengthy, contains numerous duplications and with far too many brackets placed around various provisions indicating divergences in the positions of the delegates," said Kuruk.

Kuruk was nominated and appointed to the position, which has previously been held by professors from Harvard Law School, the University of Virginia School of Law and Emory University School of Law. He has been involved in meetings of the IGC since 2001, having served as a delegate to the meetings, and advised the African Group of Countries on matters of strategy during the negotiations.

"Professor Kuruk made a name for himself as a global expert on intellectual property rights in traditional knowledge and he has played major roles helping negotiate trade arrangements between west African states and the European Union," said Dean Henry C. Strickland. "These important roles enable Professor Kuruk to provide his students global and real-world perspectives on international issues and the processes for resolving them."

"In my lectures in international law, I often talk about the roles played by international organizations in international affairs. Being a key official in an international organization provides a unique first-hand experience of the significance, intricacies and strategies of multilateral negotiations," Kuruk added. "I plan to share my experiences with students in my classes, and thereby enhance their knowledge and skills regarding negotiations and global affairs. Hopefully, this would make them better negotiators in the future."

Kuruk's teaching and research interests include commercial transactions, international business transactions, human rights and trade. He received his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the University of Ghana, his Barrister of Law from Ghana Law School, a Master of Law from Temple University School of Law and a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) from Stanford University Law School where he was a Fulbright Scholar.

Two New Academic Chairs

Formally Installed at Cumberland School of Law by William Nunnelley

Two academic chairs were approved by the Samford University Board of Trustees for Cumberland School of Law on Dec. 5: the Albert P. Brewer Chair of Law and Ethics, and the Stephen Everett Wells Chair in Municipal Law.

Professor Michael E. DeBow was installed as the Stephen Everett Wells Chair in Municipal Law on Feb. 8 and Professor William G. Ross was installed as the Albert P. Brewer Chair for Law and Ethics on March 8.

The Stephen Everett Wells Chair in Municipal Law was created by the Alabama Municipal Insurance Corporation (AMIC). AMIC provides insurance for its several hundred members, which consist of municipalities and similar governmental entities across Alabama. Municipalities are the "boots on the ground" in American government that provide the vast majority of the essential services that citizens expect from government. In light of that important reality, AMIC provided a gift of \$1,050,000 to establish the chair to assure that future lawyers are educated about municipal law and the issues that affect municipalities, and that those issues receive sound scholarly research to enhance municipalities' service to their citizens.

"I am excited for Cumberland to be a part of that effort, and look forward to future opportunities to partner with AMIC and Alabama municipalities to serve the citizens of Alabama," said Dean Henry C. Strickland.

Steve Wells, president of AMIC, added, "I've been in this business for 30 years and we have always had issues with attorneys, local judges and Supreme Court judges who do not understand municipal law. AMIC's board of directors ultimately came to the conclusion that the best way to overcome the problem was through education—a funded law school chair dedicated specifically to municipal and public entity law. Cumberland was the right fit for this unique initiative. It's something I'm very proud to have been involved with because this endeavor will have long-term, positive affects for many years."

The Brewer chair is established in memory of the late Alabama governor and Samford trustee, Albert P. Brewer. It was originally established by Brewer with a \$500,000 gift in 2013, and recently completed with a \$1 million provision from Brewer's estate. The Brewer chair is to be held by a scholar who has exhibited excellent teaching and research abilities, along with worthy ethics and professionalism.

"Governor Brewer was one of the greatest leaders and public servants in Alabama in the last hundred years," said Strickland. "He was also an extraordinary lawyer. Beyond those roles, he was a model of professionalism, civility and ethics. He humbly exhibited those traits in his roles in government and to a generation of law students. There, thus, could not be a more fitting tribute to Governor Brewer than a law school chair in ethics and professionalism to



continue his legacy."

DeBow has taught at Cumberland since 1988. His teaching and research interests include property, business organizations, administrative law, legislation and local government. DeBow's career includes a stint in private practice in Washington, D. C., followed by a judicial clerkship with Judge Kenneth Starr of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and service as an attorney-adviser to Federal Trade Commission Chairman James Miller. He served during 2000-04 as a part-time special assistant for legal policy to Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor. He is the author of numerous articles in law journals.

Ross has also taught at Cumberland since 1988. His courses have included professional responsibilities, civil procedure, constitutional law and American legal history. Ross is a nationally recognized expert on the ethics of legal fees and judicial ethics. He is also a specialist on American constitutional history and his most recent book, *World War I and the American Constitution*, was published this year by Cambridge University Press. He has also written five other books and numerous articles and book reviews on American legal history.

Leigh A. Jones, Evening and Weekend Reference Librarian



Leigh A. Jones, a proud native of Birmingham, has been the evening and weekend reference librarian at the Lucille Stewart Beeson Law Library since May 2017. Prior to arriving at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, Leigh spent nine years at Tuskegee University, where she served as the engineering librarian as well as the government documents and reference librarian. Her

professional interests include information accessibility and technical writing (specifically, aspects of content marketing and instructional design). She is also interested in issues related to patient advocacy and disability inclusion.

Leigh received a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in business and English from Fisk University in 2000, a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Texas Southern University in 2003, a Master of Science in Library Science (M.S.L.S.) from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2006, and is currently working towards completing her Master of Liberal Arts (M.L.A.) in English at Auburn University Montgomery, which she is scheduled to complete in May 2018. She is a special member of the Alabama State Bar Association.

When asked what she likes most about her role, Leigh stated, "I most enjoy helping students learn new research skills. I am always grateful for any opportunity to help others understand the importance of information literacy within the context of legal research."

In her spare time, Leigh can be found roaming various walking and hiking trails, and completing various arts and crafts projects.

Quykerita "Keta" Sewell Harmon, Acquisitions Librarian



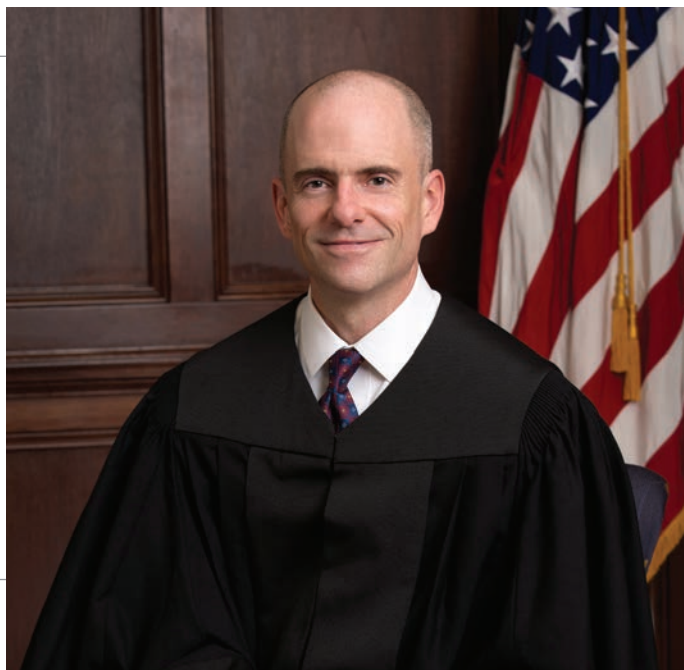
Having over a decade of experience in technical service and more than six years' experience managing a large library budget, this job was designed for Keta. Keta began her career at the University of Alabama School of Law's Bounds Law Library in 2006 as the stack maintenance supervisor. She then moved to the technical service department where she managed the serials and continuations budget and materials for the law library. She then went on to obtain

her bachelor's degree in general business and a Master of Library and Information Studies, both from the University of Alabama.

Soon after her December 2016 graduation, she applied for and accepted her current role at Cumberland School of Law as the acquisitions librarian.

When asked what she loves about her job the most, Keta responded, "What I love about my job most is its complexity. Think of technical services as inner workings of a clock. Not many people understand the mechanism but most people can tell time. It works the same way in librarianship; most people can search for a title but no one really knows how the information gets there. Even so, all of us in this department aim to make things as easy as possible for all our patrons, and that is my favorite thing about my role at Cumberland."

Keta is a member of the American Association of Law Libraries, the American Association of Law Libraries Southern Chapter (SEAALL), Innovative Users Group, Innovative Law Users Group, and serves as the secretary for Law Libraries of Alabama (LLAA).



Honorable Kevin C. Newsom

Judge Kevin C. Newsom entered his appointment as a U.S. Circuit Court judge for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 7, 2017.

Following an undergraduate education at Samford University where he graduated in 1994, Newsom went on to attend Harvard Law School where he received his Juris Doctor in 1997.

Newsom began his career as a law clerk for the Honorable Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain in the U.S. Court of Appeals' 9th District, followed by private practice in Washington, D.C. In 2000, Newsom was selected to be a law clerk for the Honorable David H. Souter, retired U.S. Supreme Court justice.

After his Supreme Court clerkship, Newsom returned to private practice until he was appointed the solicitor general for his home state of Alabama in 2003. He served in this role until 2007. From then until his most recent appointment as U.S. Circuit Court judge, Newsom once again worked in private practice in Birmingham.

Through his years of experience, Judge Newsom has served as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, Vanderbilt University Law School and at Cumberland School of Law. He is currently teaching federal courts at Cumberland.

Is there anything your law students would be surprised to know about you?

I had a truly fantastic mullet in tenth grade—business in the front, party in the back, baby! Photographic evidence available on the bulletin board in my chambers' kitchen—but you'll have to come visit to see it!

Who is one of your professional mentors? Is there one thing that you've learned from this mentor that you'd like young lawyers to know?

Bob Long, a lawyer at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C. The word "mentor" gets thrown around too casually, but Bob was one to me. I'm not sure that I learned this from Bob, but it's certainly a quality about him that I admire and that I hope I share: No matter how "fancy" you are—Bob was a Yale Law School graduate, a Rhodes Scholar, a U.S. Supreme Court law clerk, a former assistant to the U.S. solicitor general, and a world-beating Supreme Court lawyer—keep being "nice and normal." Bob had every reason to be all full of himself—yuck!—but he was the farthest thing from it, which made him an absolute joy to be around.

How do you balance your practice as a circuit court judge and responsibilities with a hobby or family time?

Easy—I've given up all of my hobbies! In all seriousness, at least so long as my kids are still at home—they're 12 and 15 now—my main "hobby" is trying to be a good dad to them.

What are two of your primary goals in teaching your course?

Mainly, just to make the material interesting, relevant and clear (it's a tough class!), and to be a resource to the students regarding their careers and lives even beyond law school.



John A. Lentine '87

John A. Lentine received his Bachelor of Arts with honors from the University of West Florida and his Juris Doctor from Cumberland Law School in 1987.

As a partner with Sheffield & Lentine PC in Birmingham, Alabama, Lentine practices exclusively criminal defense work on the trial and appellate levels throughout the state of Alabama and in a variety of federal trial and appellate courts. He is a member and past president of the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, a member and past president of the Greater Birmingham Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, a life member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, a member of the executive committee for the Birmingham Bar Association and fellow of the American Academy of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

Among his many career accolades and accomplishments, Lentine takes time to give back to young aspiring attorneys who are in law school. He has been an adjunct professor at Miles Law School, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University and the University of Alabama School of Law. He currently serves as an adjunct professor for Birmingham School of Law and a trial advocacy adjunct at Cumberland.

Will you describe an “embarrassing” moment or mistake you’ve made while practicing law? And what, if anything, did you learn from it?

Choosing a career path not regularly chosen in the law, but learning that, by doing so, it has made all the difference in my life and hopefully in the lives of those I have represented.

Who is one of your professional mentors? Is there one thing that you’ve learned from this mentor that you’d like young lawyers to know?

I have been privileged to stand on the shoulders of many giants in 30 years of practicing law, Lawrence B. Sheffield Jr., Lawrence B. Sheffield III, Louis Wilkinson, Judge C. Tommy Nail, Herbert Peterson and Judge James Haley to name but a few. I learned from all of them that preparation, perseverance and passion are the keys to becoming a true lawyer.

Do you have a 5-10-year professional goal that you’d be willing to share?

The goal is to still be above ground in 10 years, defending people and preparing the next generation of lawyers to do the same.



Craig M. Stephens '97

Craig M. Stephens is a shareholder at Sirote & Permutt PC in Birmingham, Alabama. His practice focuses on representing individuals in the estate planning process, with a focus on tax minimization strategies. Stephens represents families, often multiple generations, in connection with implementing wealth transfer strategies for closely held business interests as part of an overall business succession plan. Stephens' trust and estate administration practice is designed to help families carry out their testamentary goals, with careful attention to tax implications and family relationships. Stephens received his undergraduate degree from Stetson University, his J.D. from Cumberland, and an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida School of Law.

Outside his firm, Stephens is a member of the board of directors for Girlspring Inc., a board member for the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation and is a past member of the board for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Alabama. In his spare time, he gives back to Cumberland as an adjunct professor for Estate Planning and Estate & Gift Tax courses. He will teach Wills, Trusts and Estates in fall 2018.

How do you balance your legal practice and responsibilities with a hobby or family time?

Between working, teaching and family life with twin nine-year-old daughters, there's not much time for hobbies. Exercise has become my hobby. I am a CrossFit enthusiast—it helps keep me sane.

Will you describe a mistake you've made while practicing law? And what, if anything, did you learn from it?

Since I am an estate planning lawyer and probate lawyer, I often work with people who have just lost a loved one. I remember meeting with a widow for my very first estate administration as a new lawyer. When she entered the room I said, "Good morning, how are you today?" As soon as I said it, I realized it was a terrible greeting—considering she had just lost her husband. It was a good reminder to me to make sure you think about the circumstances that your clients are in.

What are two of your primary goals in teaching your course?

First, I want to provide a survey of the subject matter that a student can take into his or her career if they choose an estate planning career. It's foolish to think that people become experts in any subject matter right out of law school. I view my goal as providing the fundamentals for expertise to be developed. Second, I want to teach people to think. Memorizing the rules and learning the black letter law are the easy parts. Knowing how to think strategically, thoroughly and thoughtfully, are the things that must be developed in law school. I also like to add a heavy dose of practicality to my courses. I want to show the students how this concept works in real life. We review actual documents and review how somewhat theoretical concepts work their way into tangible transaction documents. I think that helps bring everything together for students.

2017-18 Faculty Awards

The following Cumberland School of Law faculty members received awards for the 2017-18 academic year:



Ramona C. Albin



Paul Kuruk



D. Wendy Greene



William G. Ross



Terrence W. McCarthy

Harvey S. Jackson Teaching Award for first-year courses:

»Ramona C. Albin

Harvey S. Jackson Teaching Award for upper-level, second-year courses:

»Paul Kuruk

Lightfoot, Franklin & White Faculty Scholarship Awards:

»D. Wendy Greene

for "Splitting Hairs: The Eleventh Circuit's Take on Workplace Bans Against Black Women's Natural Hair in EEOC v. Catastrophe Management Solutions," 71 Miami L. Rev. 1 (2017).

»William G. Ross

for *World War I and the American Constitution* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

Outstanding Adjunct Professor Award:

»Terrence W. McCarthy



Attorney, Entrepreneur Jimmy Rane '71 Featured in Inaugural Dean's Lecture Series in Business Law by William Nunnelley

In October, Jimmy Rane, president and chief executive officer of Great Southern Wood Preserving Inc., delivered the inaugural presentation of the Dean's Lecture Series in Business Law, a new series that will bring prominent alumni to campus to interact with students and share from their life experiences.

The 1971 Cumberland graduate traced the story of how his business, "a small operation in southeast Alabama, became the biggest at what it does—and also how a budding lawyer took a different and unexpected path into business."

"I am grateful for my time at Cumberland, and the very valuable legal education I took into the business world," he said.

Cumberland Dean Corky Strickland presented Rane with a memento of his visit to his alma mater, the framed original letter recommending Rane to the law school as a prospective student. It was signed by then-Governor Albert P. Brewer.



Congratulations to Cumberland School of Law's 2017–18 advocacy teams who accomplished excellence during the last academic year.

National Civil Trial Competition Champion

National Trial Advocacy Competition Champion

Florida National Trial Advocacy Competition Champion

Regional Winners of the National Trial Competition

American Bar Association (ABA) Regional Mediation Competition Champion

Third Place at the ABA National Mediation Competition

CKP Cup Competition Finalist

Best Oralist at the Regional ABA National Appellate Advocacy Competition

Many thanks to our competition team coaches for their commitment to helping further the tradition of excellence in advocacy education at Cumberland School of Law.

Stewart Alvis

Bill Bensinger

Anthony Bowling

Krista Cowley

Anne Durward

Michael Eldridge

Bains Fleming

Setara Foster

Jeremy Hazelton

Irving Jones

April Jackson MacLennan

Cameron McEwen

Blake Milner

Mike Rasmussen

Honorable Jim Roberts

Charlie Shah

Miranda Taylor

Spenser Templeton

Brian Turner

Sara Williams

Clay Williams

Matt Woodham

A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 2017–MAY 2018



Mark Baggett

Professor Mark Baggett delivered a paper at *The Alabama Baptist* 175th Anniversary Symposium on March 2, 2018, titled “Read the Eternities: *The Alabama Baptist* and Its Legacy of Influence.” Additionally, Baggett’s paper titled “Mark Twain’s Legal Burlesques and the Democratization of American Legalese” was accepted for the Mark Twain Circle of American session of the American Literature Association Conference on May 25, 2018.



Brad T. Bishop '71

“The Continuing Reformation of Alabama’s Municipal Courts” article, written by Professor Brad Bishop and third-year law student Laura Yetter, was featured in the May 2018 edition of *The Alabama Lawyer* magazine.



Judge John Carroll '74

Judge John Carroll was appointed by the Uniform Law Commission to be a member of a committee which is drafting a uniform law to harmonize the law of the United States and Canada on registration, recognition and enforcement of money judgments. The committee met in October 2017 and March 2018. It will present a first draft to the Uniform Law Commission at its annual meeting in July.

Carroll has also been appointed by the Alabama Law Institute to be a member of a committee drafting a Collateral Consequences Act which would provide a method for convicted persons to be relieved of the collateral consequences of a conviction which prevents them from obtaining gainful employment. The committee met in December 2017 and April 2018.

He was also appointed by the state bar president, Augusta Dowd, to be chair of the Senior Lawyer-New Lawyer Task Force of the Alabama State Bar. The task force met in January and March of 2018 and a final report of the work of the task force will be made in

May. The vice-chair of the task force is Ashby Pate '07.

On Dec. 14, 2017, Carroll was a speaker at the Cumberland CLE Employment Law Update. His topic was the discovery of electronically stored information.

On Feb. 9, 2018, Carroll was a panelist at a program on Veteran’s Treatment Courts in Huntsville which was sponsored by the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Alabama and the VA, among others. Carroll was a member of the drafting committee of the Uniform Law Commission which drafted the Model Veteran’s Treatment Court Act. That act was approved by the Uniform Law Commission for enactment in July of 2017.

On March 1, 2018, Carroll was elected as the chair of the Alabama Fair Ballot Commission. The Fair Ballot Commission is the state commission charged with preparing plain language statements to assist voters in understanding the significance of votes for and against statewide constitutional amendments which appear on statewide election ballots.



Mike DeBow

In the fall, Professor Mike DeBow contributed a chapter to Edward Elgar’s publication *Research Handbook on Austrian Law and Economics*. DeBow’s chapter is titled “Austrian Economics and Tort Law.”

On Feb. 8, 2018, DeBow was officially installed as the Stephen Everett Wells Professor of Municipal Law.

On March 12, 2018 DeBow spoke at Elon University School of Law in Greensboro, North Carolina, describing his research on the Justice Department’s ongoing antitrust challenge to AT&T’s proposed acquisition of Time Warner. This was part of a faculty exchange program that Cumberland shares with Elon.

DeBow attended the Spring Municipal Law Conference conducted by the Alabama League of Municipalities on March 23, 2018.



Brannon Denning

Associate Dean Brannon Denning participated in a number of national conferences during 2017 and 2018.

In September, he moderated the Alcohol Litigation Roundup at the Center for Alcohol Policy's Annual Law & Policy Conference in Chicago.

In October, Denning was a panelist at the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association Administrators' Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His panel was entitled "Telling the Story: Alcohol Regulation and the Three Tier System."

In November, he spoke to the Alabama Higher Education Diversity Officers Meeting in Birmingham on "Free Speech and Hate Speech on College Campuses."

In February, he participated as both a panelist and a moderator at a conference on "Heller after Ten Years," which marked the 10th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision recognizing an individual right to keep and bear arms, and was held at Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in Raleigh, North Carolina. Also, in February, he participated in a discussion of "The Federalists, the Anti-federalists, and the Constitution They Created," which was sponsored by the Federalist Society and the Liberty Fund in San Francisco. Finally, he was a panelist at the Annual Meeting of the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association in Washington, D.C. The topic of his panel was "The Legal Relevance of Towards Liquor Control."

Denning published a brief tribute to a former colleague of his, Bill Schroeder, in the *Southern Illinois University Law Review*. His latest law review article, "Can Judges Be Uncivily Obedient?" was accepted by the *William & Mary Law Review* and will be published in fall 2018.

During summer 2018, he will be a visiting professor at the University of Tennessee College of Law.



Alyssa DiRusso

Professor Alyssa DiRusso recently accepted an appointment as the associate editor of the *American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) Law Journal*. She will serve a two-year term as associate editor followed by a two-year term as editor-in-chief.

Additionally, she co-authored two op-ed pieces with Daniel Rashke that appeared in *The Hill* and CNN Online, arguing for a charitable, flexible spending account as detailed in her 2014 article "Charity at Work: Proposing a Charitable Flexible Spending Account," 2014 Utah L. Rev. 281 (2014). The op-ed published on Nov. 28, 2017 on TheHill.com is titled "A Tax Reform Idea that Works for All Americans" and "How to Make Americans More Generous, Not Less" was published on CNN.com on Oct. 31, 2017.



Michael D. Floyd

The second edition of Michael D. Floyd's book, *Mastering Negotiable Instruments* (Carolina Academic Press), was released in early 2018. First edition copies from 2008 are now available on Amazon.com.

Former presidents of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools were invited to write essays commemorating SEALS' 70th anniversary. "Michael D. Floyd, The Genius of SEALS: Scholarship, Teaching, Friends, and Family, In Beautiful Places on a Budget" is forthcoming in 2018 in the *University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review*.

Additionally, Floyd is now a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award as a part of Marquis "Who's Who."

Floyd also contributed to the last issue of *Cumberland Lawyer* with his article "Loreta Raulinaityte, A Cumberland Alumna Making a Difference in Lithuania."



Edward Martin

In the spring, Professor Edward Martin published the 60th release for his treatise on premises liability. Martin's treatise originally was published in 1987 by Matthew Bender & Company as a three-volume series devoted to providing practicing attorneys with a thorough explanation and survey of the American law of premises liability. Since that time, Martin has written 60 bi-annual substantive updates, and the treatise has been expanded substantially over the years so that it now encompasses five volumes that are available in both printed and digital format. Regularly cited in judicial opinions by numerous courts throughout the country, Martin has long been a nationally recognized authority on premises liability law.

Last year, Martin, along with the other co-authors of his torts casebook, also published a re-written and completely updated second edition of their *Mastering Tort Law* book as part of the Carolina Academic Press Mastering series of law school texts. Forthcoming in summer 2018, also published by Carolina Academic Press, will be the fifth edition of Martin's co-authored torts casebook. Originally published in 2003, this casebook has been adopted by numerous law schools throughout the country and continues to grow in popularity.



Tracey M. Roberts

Assistant Professor Tracey M. Roberts presented her article, "The Taxing Power as a Reverse Takings Clause," at the 8th Annual Meeting of the Association of Law, Property, and Society at the University of Michigan on May 19, 2017, and at the Society for Environmental Law and Economics at Oxford University's Worcester College in Oxford, England, on May 27, 2017.

Roberts participated in the Lochner Era Seminar sponsored by the Institute for Constitutional History at Stanford Law School on July 9-14, 2017.

Roberts was interviewed on National Public Radio's Marketplace program about "Tax Brackets and Why You Shouldn't Fear A Raise" on Sept. 5, 2017.

Roberts presented her paper, "Environmental Regulation, Efficiency and the WTO," at the Global Conference on Environmental Taxation at the University of Arizona on Sept. 27, 2017.

On Feb. 21, 2018, Roberts presented "An Overview and Basic

Design Components of Carbon Taxes and Cap-and-trade at Federal Options for Pricing Carbon" at a symposium and workshop organized by the University of Houston Environment, Energy and Natural Resources (EENR) Center and the University of Houston Law Center, the Nicholas Institute at Duke University, the Duke University Energy Initiative and the University of Houston Energy Initiative.



William G. Ross

Professor William G. Ross was installed as the Albert P. Brewer Professor of Law and Ethics at an investiture ceremony on March 8, 2018.

The fourth edition of his co-authored constitutional law casebook, *Constitutional Law in Context*, was published in March by the Carolina Academic Press.

He was quoted as an expert on the ethics of time-based billing by attorneys in *The New York Times* on Feb. 19, 2018.

On April 20, 2018, he spoke in Indianapolis at the annual conference of the Society for German-American Studies about the constitutional consequences of suppression of German-American ethnicity during World War I, basing his talk on his most recent book, *World War I and the American Constitution* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).



Deborah Young

Professor Deborah Young will be a visiting professor at Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Vermont, this summer.

Honoring Faculty and Staff for Dedicated Years of Service

by Anne Marovich

When reminiscing about our days in law school, we often picture a beloved or feared faculty or staff member. The following friendly faces from Robinson Hall bring back memories. Brad Bishop, Pattie Harris and Pam Nelson have served our students and alumni for a combined 97 years. Cumberland School of Law is truly blessed to have these longtime dedicated faculty and staff members.



Brad Bishop '71 (Samford University undergraduate degree in 1961)
50 years

In January, alumnus T. Brad Bishop was honored for 50 years of service at Samford University. He has held so many significant roles, the space on this page is inadequate to list them all. Dean, professor, judge, director, coach and author, generally describe, yet understate, many of the positions he has held over the past fifty years. Bishop, after being awarded every teaching award he could possibly receive, remains a beloved “favorite” law professor, teaching enthusiastically as if it was his first year.



Pattie Harris, Director of Student Records
27 years

From February 1991, Pattie Harris has served the law school and its students in several different capacities. From recruiter to counselor to assistant director in the Office of Admission and, for the last 11 years, as director of student records, our students and alumni consulted Harris for enrollment, class registration and state licensure assistance during and after law school. It is the one-on-one meetings due to Cumberland’s size that Harris believes is an asset of our law school. Chances are, if you graduated within the last 27 years, you’ve met Harris.



Pam Nelson, Director of Student Services and ADA Compliance
20 years

Pam Nelson came to Cumberland in 1998 after a 19-year teaching career in Atlanta and Birmingham. Over the years, as director of student services, Nelson has been responsible for academic and personal counseling, state bar registration and application, examination administration, publication of manuals and directories and ADA administration. She has been involved with the international exchange program since its inception. Many law students receive guidance, meaningful and, oftentimes, confidential assistance from Nelson during trying times, rejoicing with them in their joys and helping them through their sorrows.

CLASS NOTES COLLECTED OCTOBER 2017–APRIL 2018

1965

Albert L. Shumaker is filling an unexpired term, 2017-18, on Samford University's Board of Trustees. Shumaker previously served 12 years as a trustee. As well, Shumaker is in private practice in Centre, Alabama.

1968

Squire Gwin received the Birmingham Bar Association's L. Burton Barnes III Public Service Award. This award recognizes a member who has given freely of their time and energy in public service for the benefit and betterment of the general public.

1969

Ed Meyerson, shareholder of Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama, is cofounder of The Mike Slive Foundation for Prostate Cancer Research.

1970

Audrey L. Gaston Howard posthumously received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received recognition in February 2018.)

1971

James "Jimmy" W. Rane was the speaker for the 2018 Fellows Dinner of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

1972

John Whittington, retired general counsel of HealthSouth, Birmingham, Alabama, joined the board of directors of McPherson Oil.

1973

Judge Houston L. Brown (ret.) was the keynote speaker during the 54th Observance of the 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing Community Memorial Service on Sept. 15, 2017. Brown also received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received recognition in February 2018.)

1974

Judge John L. Carroll was a panelist in a program on Veteran's Treatment Courts sponsored by the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. Also, he was elected as chair of the Alabama Fair Ballot Commission. The Fair Ballot Commission is a state commission responsible for drafting plain language ballot statements to explain to voters the meaning and consequences of constitutional amendments which appear on ballots during state elections. As well, he participated in a meeting of a drafting committee of the Uniform Law Commission. The committee is currently drafting legislation to harmonize the law of Canada and the United States as it relates to the enforcement of foreign money judgments.

Cecil Cheves, along with his wife Bettye, was recognized with the 2017 Sue Marie and Bill Turner Servant Leadership Award, presented by The Pastoral Institute. The award was presented to this extraordinary couple after nearly five decades of serving others.

Gary J. Rickner was selected as a 2018 "Legal Elite" by Business North Carolina. Only about three percent

of attorneys in the state of North Carolina achieve this recognition.

J. Mark White was elected to be president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. As well, White maintains his practice at White Arnold Dowd in Birmingham, Alabama.

1975

Judge Alfred Horowitz retired Dec. 31, 2017, from the 17th Judicial Circuit in Broward County, Florida.

L. David Sims was elected to the 20th Judicial Circuit's Grievance Committee. Sims is a family law attorney with Henderson Franklin Starnes & Holt in Fort Myers, Florida.

1976

Llyod W. Gathings II was named a member of the 2018 Life Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Former Judge Joel Holley is a city attorney for the city of Huntsville, Alabama.

Linda W. Knight is chair of the Bylaws Committee of the Jamestowne Society. As well, she is currently the secretary and immediate past president of the Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society and treasurer of the Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women. She serves on the board of Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument Inc. and the Emerging Legal Markets ad hoc committee of the Tennessee Bar Association.

Richard H. Knight, completed a term as the attorney general of the Jamestowne Society and is presently serving as the society's secretary of state. He holds a leadership role in planning a regional conference of the Churchill Society of Tennessee.

Paul Phillips is vice president of sales at ThreatAdvice in Birmingham, Alabama.

Betsy Sue Scott is a special justice in the 20th Judicial District of Virginia hearing matters in Loudoun County, Virginia.

1977

Richard W. Moore, was sworn in as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Alabama. Moore served as the inspector general of the Tennessee Valley Authority since 2003.

1978

Stan Davis is president and chairman of the board for School Ministries of Birmingham.

Retired Col. Henry "Hank" Fowler was honored by the dedication of Fowler Courtroom, at the 42nd ABW headquarters building (Montgomery, Alabama). Fowler was an F-4 fighter pilot during the Vietnam War, became a prisoner of war, a staff judge advocate and an instructor. He retired in 1991. Fowler is decorated with two Silver Stars, two Legions of Merit, Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, Prisoner of War Medal and three Air Medals. In 2012, he was selected as an eagle in Air Command joining the ranks of aviation pioneers such as Chuck Yeager, Benjamin O. Davis Jr. and Neil Armstrong. Fowler was the first staff judge advocate to be honored as an eagle.

Honora M. Gathings was named a member of the 2018 Life Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Steven V. Graham was nominated by The Nature Conservancy for the AFP volunteer of the year awards.

Charles Ingram was elected by the University of North Carolina (UNC) Board of Governors to serve on the UNC Board of Visitors. Charles and his wife, former Cumberland professor Carolyn Ingram, own Ingram & Ingram in Kenansville, North Carolina.

Martha Jane Patton was named a member of the 2018 Fellows Class of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Judge Sandra Storm (ret.) received the Susan B. Livingston Award during the Birmingham Bar Association annual meeting for her long dedicated career as a lawyer, judge and community servant.

1979

William G. Colvin is president of the Chattanooga Bar Association. In addition, he was recognized recently by Best Lawyers in America for Litigation (construction, litigation and insurance). He was named a fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America as well, an invitation-only construction lawyer honorary society.

Honorable G. Douglas Jones was elected to the U.S. Senate (Alabama) on Dec. 12, 2017, and sworn in to office on Jan. 3, 2018.

Gary Smith, CEO of PowerSouth, was the 2018 commencement speaker for Lurleen B. Wallace Community College in Andalusia, Alabama.

1980

Judge John Hodges Bentley retired as a judge from the 25th Judicial Circuit serving Marion and Winston Counties, Alabama.

Judge Karon O. Bowdre was elected to another four-year term on Samford University's Board of Trustees. Bowdre is chief judge for the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

David F. Daniell was named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Anthony Joseph received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received recognition in February 2018.) As well, he is the new board of trustees' president of The Alabama Law Foundation, for 2017-18. He also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Alabama Power Company. Joseph is an attorney with Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

Robert O. Posey was appointed by U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town as executive assistant U. S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama.

Marda W. Sydnor was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. The academy invites only lawyers who have attained the highest level of advocacy and limits the number of fellows to 500 in the United States. Sydnor maintains her practice with Parsons Lee & Juliano PC, Birmingham, Alabama.

1981

Ernest Cory was named a member of the 2018 Fellows Class of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

David L. Silverstein joined the board of directors of IberiaBank. As well, Silverstein is a principal of Bayer Properties LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Michael R. White is a senior lecturer of business law at Auburn University Montgomery's College of Business in Montgomery, Alabama. As well, White teaches business law each summer at the Hubei University of Economics, Wuhan, People's Republic of China.

1982

Michael Anderton was appointed by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey as the 10th Judicial Circuit District Attorney in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Judge Alan King received the 2017 Lifetime Achievement in Law, by the metro Birmingham branch of the NAACP, during the 17th Annual Salute to Men of Distinction at Trinity Baptist Church.

Eugene W. Reese was named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

J. Allen Sydnor Jr. was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. The academy invites only lawyers who have attained the highest level of advocacy and limits the number of fellows to 500 in the United States. Sydnor maintains his practice with Huie Fernambucq & Stewart LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

1983

C. Jeffrey Ash joined Porterfield Harper Mills Motlow & Ireland in Birmingham, Alabama.

Charles "Clay" H. Clark Jr. received the Robert W. Lee Award for Excellence in Workers' Compensation from the Birmingham Bar Association Workers' Compensation Section.

Scott Colson received the Thomas Pickens Gates award from Global Ties Alabama.

James L. Gass was appointed special judge by Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam for the Fourth Judicial Circuit, serving Jefferson, Grainger, Cocke and Sevier counties, Tennessee. Gass' appointment fills the temporary vacancy due to illness of Circuit Court Judge Richard R. Vance. As well, he has been a partner at Ogle, Gass & Richardson in Sevierville, Tennessee, since 1998.

Peter S. Mackey was named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

1984

Lindsey Allison received the Tenure in Office Award by the Association of County Commissions of Alabama for her 24 years of service to county government and the state of Alabama.

LaBella Alvis was appointed to the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Committee.

Judge (ret.) J. Langford Floyd retired after 20 years, as circuit court judge for the 28th Judicial Circuit, Baldwin County, Alabama, retired as a LTC from the Army

Reserves JAG Corp after 28 years and joined the law firm Lloyd Gray Whitehead & Monroe PC, Pensacola, Florida. In addition, Langford was elected ASB bar commissioner for Baldwin County Bar Association. He was also named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Dawn Hayes is a full-time mediator with the Department of Administrative Hearings, Division of Workers' Compensation claims in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Dave L. Manz is the 2018 recipient of the Florida Bar Family Law Section's Visionary Award for "outstanding service and invaluable contributions to the practice of family law throughout the state of Florida." He is owner of The Manz Firm in Marathon, Florida.

Margaret Mayfield received the Gordon F. Bailey Attorney of the Year Award during the Alabama Child Support Conference. Given by the Alabama Child Support Association, the award honors Gordon F. Bailey, who co-authored the Alabama Uniform Parentage Act.

1985

Leslie Barineau was elected to be president of the ABA National Conference of Bar Foundations. She is the first Alabama attorney to hold this role.

Chandler Vreeland was recently elected for a second term as president of the Greater Kennesaw Kiwanis Club and was awarded a Kiwanis Walter Zeller Fellowship for distinguished service. As such, Vreeland is located in Marietta, Georgia.

1986

Julia T. Cochrun cofounded Cochrun & Seals LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jay Holloway is managing partner of AkinMears, Houston, Texas. As well, he authored and published *Alabama Civil Practice Forms*, 4th Edition, 2017 Cumulative Supplement, Volume 1.

Bruce M. Lieberman was named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

1987

M. Teresa Cunningham Harris is with the Public Defender's Office, Lexington, Virginia.

Judge Helen Shores Lee (ret.) received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received recognition in February 2018.)

Julie Lovelace was promoted to the position of vice president at Municipal Code Corporation, Tallahassee, Florida.

Bernard Walsh joined The Expert Network®, an invitation-only service for distinguished professionals. Walsh was chosen as a Distinguished Lawyer™. As well, Walsh is a partner at Shapiro Goldman Babboni Fernandez & Walsh in Sarasota, Florida.

William B. Grete is a member of Brunini Grantham Grower & Hewes PLLC, in Jackson, Mississippi.

1989

Eddie Blair is a city attorney for the city of Huntsville, Alabama.

C. Wesley Bridges II is general counsel for the school board of Polk County, Florida.

Rhonda P. Chambers was named a member of the 2018 Fellows Class of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Jeffrey C. Rickard was named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation.

G. Mark Thompson is president and CEO of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As well, Thompson continues to serve on the board of directors of Christian Legal Clinics of Philadelphia and on the Grants Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

George W. Walker III opened an Auburn, Alabama, office of The Finley Firm PC.

1990

Richard S. Costigan III was re-elected by the California State Personnel Board as its representative to the California Public Employees' Retirement System Board of Administration.

David Dearing was selected as a member of the International Society of Barristers.

Patricia Pritchett was selected to be in the 2017-18 Momentum Class, a leadership program for female professionals in Alabama.

Susan J. Silvernail was named a member of the 2018 Fellows Class of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Sharon D. Stuart was named a member of the 2018 Fellows Class of the Birmingham Bar Foundation. Also, she is filling an unexpired term, 2017-20, on Samford University's Board of Trustees. Stuart is a partner with Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

1991

John "Jack" J. Kubiszyn Jr. is a partner at Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

1992

William "Bill" Dyer III was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve, in a ceremony conducted at Ft. Myer, Virginia. Dyer is the assistant judge advocate general for military law and operations, with duty at the Pentagon. In this role, he manages the work of the military law and operations sections of the Army's Office of the Judge Advocate General, and advises high-level military commanders on worldwide legal and operational issues.

Charles M. Elmer is a principal of Jackson Lewis PA in Washington, D.C.

Lisa J. Sharp received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received recognition in February 2018.) Sharp is senior counsel, Office of General Counsel, Employee Relations, Southern Company Services in Atlanta, Georgia.

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1993

Charles E. Atchley Jr. was appointed to be the first assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee. Previously, he served as deputy chief of the criminal division and supervisor of the National Security Unit.

Melissa Gifford Hise was appointed by Chief Justice Christina Cook Graham to be the ADA contact in the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit, serving Catoosa, Chattahoochee, Dade and Walker Counties of Georgia. As well, Hise is in private practice in Summerville, Georgia, and an associate magistrate judge in Walker County.

1994

Tod Hyche was recognized in Chambers High Net Worth 2017 as a "Leader in the Field" in South Carolina for Private Wealth Law. Hyche is a partner at Smith Moore Leatherwood, Greenville, South Carolina.

1995

Judge Jimmy Daryl Burt was appointed a circuit judge, for the 25th Judicial Circuit, serving Marion and Winston Counties of Alabama, by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.

State Judge Advocate Bobby Christine was invested as the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia.

Thomas W. Davis Jr. is vice president of operations at Garden City Group LLC, Seattle, Washington.

Anne L. Durward received the inaugural Birmingham Bar Foundation Award of Excellence.

Mary Ann Etzler received an award from the Florida Bar Foundation Pro Bono Committee for providing over 900 hours of pro bono service over the last 14 years.

Michael I. Fish recently prepared a chapter in *Workers' Compensation Emerging Issues Analysis*, 2017 edition. As well, his firm Fish Nelson & Holden LLC, Birmingham, is the Alabama representative for the National Workers' Compensation Defense Network, where Fish is the current president.

Hon. Bentley H. Patrick joined Whitaker Mudd Luke & Wells in Birmingham, Alabama.

1996

Matthew W. Barnes relocated from the Burr & Forman office in Birmingham, Alabama, to lead its new office, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Martha Cook is a 2017-18 co-chair of the Leadership Development Committee, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association.

Freddie N. Harrington Jr. is cofounder and owner of Stott & Harrington, Birmingham, Alabama.

Michael Mick Patrick Mulroy was selected for appointment to the senior executive service, and for assignment as the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Middle East. Mulroy, formerly serving as a U.S. marine, recently retired as a paramilitary operations officer in the CIA after a career of decorated service in conflict areas across the world.

Kelle Strickland is chief of staff, House Sergeant at Arms in Washington, D.C.

Caroline West is of counsel with Thurmond Kirchner & Thimbus PA in Charleston, South Carolina.

1997

Wendi Brown was selected to be in the 2017-18 Momentum Class, a leadership program for female professionals in Alabama.

Leslie Caldwell is an attorney with Hagwood Adelman Tipton PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

James P. Catalano founded The Catalano Firm in Nashville, Tennessee.

D. Bradley Folsom was appointed by the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners to the Valdosta-Lowndes County Development Authority. As well, he continues his private practice with Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers PC in Valdosta, Georgia.

Jana Russell Garner founded JRG Law Offices in Selma, Alabama. As well, she was named a 2017 Fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation, and was appointed to the Alabama Court of the Judiciary by the Alabama State Bar.

1998

Carl "Trey" Dowdey III was selected as the staff judge advocate for the 412th Theater Engineer Command (TEC) out of Vicksburg, Mississippi. As well, he currently serves with the 2nd Legal Operations Detachment based out of New Orleans and is a senior attorney with Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Gina Pearson is a trial attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Birmingham, Alabama.

Stephany S. Pedigo, and her partners from Baker Kinsman Hollis & Clelland PC, joined Rainey Kizer Reviere and Bell PC in its Chattanooga, Tennessee office.

Lloyd Peeples was appointed by U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town as first assistant U. S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama.

1999

Daniel E. Buras Jr. is a partner with Chehardy Sherman & Williams LLP in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Derek F. Meek was appointed vice president of chapter relations for the Turnaround Management Association's (TMA) Executive Board. Approximately 8,300 TMA members form a worldwide professional community that drives business and seeks to strengthen the global economy, increase enterprise value, preserve equity, manage disruption and produce significantly improved results.

Kary Bryant Wolfe was elected a partner at Jones Walker in Birmingham, Alabama.

2000

Bradley Harris is lead counsel at FedEx Supply Chain in the greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area.

Kim Hudson received Aflac's Duckprints Award for her significant contribution in the lives of those touched by childhood cancer.

John Strohm became president of Rounder Records in Nashville, Tennessee.

2001

R. Champ Crocker was named to the list of Top 100 High Stakes Litigators in America. This recognition is reserved to identify the nation's most exceptional trial attorneys in high value, high stakes legal matters. As well, Crocker has a private practice in Cullman, Alabama.

Benton Curtis is a partner of Broad & Cassel in Miami, Florida.

Ashley Ekberg Manning is a counselor at Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

Jeffrey G. Miller is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

Honorable Martha Dubina Roby is a 2018 Woman of Impact award winner by Yellowhammer News. She is the U.S. Representative for Alabama's 2nd Congressional District.

2002

Rusty A. Fleming was selected to be a fellow in the American College of Mortgage Attorneys. As well, he maintains his practice with Nelson Mullins in Atlanta, Georgia.

N. Woodrow Hartzog published a book titled *Privacy's Blueprint: the Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies*.

Robin Beardsley Mark is a 2017-18 co-chair, Service Award Committee, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association. As well, she was also elected to executive committee place number 2 of the Birmingham Bar Association for 2018.

2003

Rachel V. Barlotta was named to the 2018 "40 Under 40 List" by *Birmingham Business Journal*.

Andrea W. Greene was named to the 2018 "40 Under 40 List" by *Birmingham Business Journal*.

2004

Natalie S. Jones was appointed by Georgia Governor Deal to the Bona Fide Coin Operated Amusement Machine Operated Board. Jones is currently the chief operating officer of Convenience Stores Inc., a subsidiary of Jones Petroleum Company. As well, she sits on the boards of directors for the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores, the Butts County Humane Society, and the Georgia Lottery Retailer Advisory Board. She was named one of the 2017 Top Women in Convenience by Convenience Store News.

R. Charles Lee became an assistant attorney general for CNMI, and was sworn in on the island of Saipan, by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Supreme Court. The Northern Mariana Islands are a chain of 14 tropical islands in the Western Pacific.

Samantha Smith is an attorney at Bishop Colvin Johnson & Kent in Birmingham, Alabama.

Will E. Smith is a partner at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kimberly D. Grande Stanko was selected by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Secretary, Erik A. Hooks, to be the new executive director of the Inmate Grievance Resolution Board in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Ricardo Woods is a new member of the executive committee of Burr & Forman. Woods maintains his practice from the Mobile, Alabama office.

2005

Douglas W. Dahl II is a member of Bass Berry & Sims in Nashville, Tennessee.

Sonya C. Edwards founded Edwards Law LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mark E. Irby is a partner at Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lauren H. Shine is the 2017-18 chair-elect for the Birmingham Bar Association's Women Lawyers Section.

2006

S. Gaillard Ladd was named to the Leadership Forum Class 14 of the Alabama State Bar.

Heather Sharp Travar recently launched travarwebsites.com which sells websites for very small businesses. Travar is located in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Christy Sherbrook was selected to be in the 2017-18 Momentum Class, a leadership program for female professionals in Alabama.

Sara Williams is managing partner of Alexander Shunnarah Injury Lawyers PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

2007

Casey Barron is the supervising attorney of Children's Legal Services for the 14th Judicial Circuit of Florida. As well, she achieved Board Certified Specialist in Juvenile Law designation.

Michelle Butler was selected to receive the Advancing Professionals Award from the National Contract Management Association (NCMA). The NCMA Advancing Professionals Award was established in 2012 to recognize top performers in contract management under the age of 40. Michelle works in the DeKalb County, Georgia Purchasing & Contracting Department.

Nathan J. Hallford is an assistant general counsel for federal government affairs at Fifth Third Bank in Washington, D.C.

Kelli Byers Hooper joined DiPietro Family Law Group in Atlanta, Georgia. As well, Hooper was appointed to the iCivics Committee of the State Bar of Georgia, serves on the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers Foundation Board, and is an active member of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and Georgia Trial Lawyers Association.

John T. Howard is corporate counsel at Amazon.com in Seattle, Washington.

Laura Hume is an associate at Wettermark Keith in Birmingham, Alabama.

Honorable R. Ashby Pate was appointed vice chair of the Alabama State Bar's Senior Lawyer–New Lawyer Task Force and will also chair the Access to Justice subcommittee which reviews the legal needs and challenges in the rural areas of Alabama. Also, he was named to the Leadership Forum Class 14 of the Alabama State Bar.

Jessica Rahm is a real estate attorney at Meredith Shearer & Associates in Marietta, Georgia.

Thomas Richie was elected to the Legal Aid Society of Birmingham Board of Trustees.

Aaron Ryan is a partner of Conchin Cloud & Cole LLC in Huntsville, Alabama.

Tanya K. Shunnara was named to the 2018 "40 Under 40 List" by *Birmingham Business Journal*.

LaTonia M. Williams joined 5 Points Law in Birmingham, Alabama. Her practice will focus on family law and criminal defense.

Randall Woodfin became the 30th mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, on Nov. 28, 2017. As well, Woodfin joined the executive committee of the Birmingham Business Alliance. He also received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received recognition in Feb. 2018.)

Ariel Zion is associate general counsel at Insight Global in Atlanta, Georgia.

2008

K. Mac Bracewell Jr. is a shareholder with Rogers Towers, in its trusts and estates department, Jacksonville, Florida. As well, he is vice chair of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville Inc. and a member of the Estate Planning Council of Northeast Florida.

Lisa Knapp Hinson is director, Sourcing–Enterprise Functions at Ally in Charlotte, North Carolina.

LaMonica Orr Love was elected president-elect of the Association of Women Attorneys, Houston, Texas.

Brooke Garner Malcom has been named to the 2018 Board of Directors for the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program. She will serve as the organization's treasurer and finance committee chair.

Ashley E. McGrane is director of business operations for TeleHealth Services at UAB Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama.

Luisa Kay Reyes was published as a guest contributor on Dec. 8, 2017, Entropy (website), a creative non-fiction titled, "Christmas Portrait: Joy to the World". In addition, Reyes wrote "Curious About America", published in an anthology, *Dear America Reflections On Race*. She is a semi-finalist for the The American Prize in Voice/Friedrich & Virginia Schorr Memorial Award—community division (women in art song, oratorio and opera), 2017. In addition,

her literary work, "My Border Crossing," published in Issue 4, *Eastern Iowa Review*, was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Her piece, "Truly Snow White", was published in the September 2017 issue of *Seshat Literary Magazine*. Also, she wrote a fictional essay titled "Hello" and it was published in the April 2018 "Green" issue of *Edify Fiction*.

Ashley Sawyer is founder and owner of Sawyer Family Law in Atlanta, Georgia.

David Sawyer is with Law & Moran in Atlanta, Georgia.

2009

Jennifer Smith Baker is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

Michael Chester is general counsel for American Family Care in Birmingham, Alabama.

Matthew Claiborne is a commodity manager at Bridgestone in Nashville, Tennessee.

Matt Conn became a partner of Friedman Dazzo Zulanis & Bowling PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Andrew C. Knowlton was named partner of Hall Booth Smith in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dustin Manning became a shareholder of Polsinelli in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Summer L. McWhorter was appointed an assistant district attorney in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, DeKalb and Cherokee Counties, Alabama.

Matthew I. Penfield is a principal of Bressler Amery & Ross in Birmingham, Alabama.

Anna Scully was made a partner of Burr & Forman and is located in its Mobile, Alabama office.

Brian Spellin was named to the Top 40 Under 40 list of National Trial Lawyers.

Megan Stephens was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association.

Summer Wells is the 2017-18 corresponding secretary, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association.

2010

Ashley Adams is general manager of corporate operations at NC Fit in San Francisco, California.

Benjamin Coulter was named a partner at Burr & Forman and is located in its Birmingham, Alabama office.

Patrick W. Dean was named to the Leadership Forum Class 14 of the Alabama State Bar.

Shannon Dye is a 2017-18 co-chair of the Leadership Development Committee, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association. Shannon also received an award from the Women Lawyers Section for distinguished service over the last year.

Rod Evans received an inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Award from Samford University. (See page 35 for a feature about the award and fellow alumni who received

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recognition in February 2018.) Evans is an associate at Wallace Jordan Ratliffe & Brandt in Birmingham, Alabama.

Alexander B. Feinberg is a partner at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kiel Gross and her husband, **Joshua Gross**, are owners and operators of CrossFit East Nashville, in Nashville, Tennessee.

K. Coe Heard is a partner at Waller Law in Nashville, Tennessee.

Whitney Henry Kimerling was named one of *Nashville Business Journal's* 40 Under 40.

Shannon McClure is an investment counselor at Mitchell McLeod Pugh & Williams in Mobile, Alabama.

Ashley Reitz Peinhardt was selected by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys as one of the Top 10 under 40 lawyers in Alabama.

Brittany Adkins Schaffer is head of Artist and Label Services with Spotify in Nashville, Tennessee.

Brian K. Smithweck is a partner at Adams & Reese in Mobile, Alabama.

Jessica Thomas was a presenter during the National Employment Law Council's Associates' Roundtable Panel with In-House Counsel in Nashville, Tennessee.

Margaret A. Vinsant was named to the Leadership Forum Class 14 of the Alabama State Bar. She is an associate in corporate contracts for Southern Company.

Amanda Williamson is a 2017-18 co-chair of the Newsletter & Public Relations Committee, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association.

R. Menyian Woodall is risk manager at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

2011

Carrie Hodge Bates is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

Christine Baylet Bergeron is an assistant general counsel for Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

Marshall Clay is a partner and senior advisor with The Welch Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Christopher H. Daniel was named to the Leadership Forum Class 14 of the Alabama State Bar.

Pamela Springrose Hallford is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

Brandon Hays cofounded Thompson Hays & Wear LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brett Thompson cofounded Thompson Hays & Wear LLC in Birmingham, Alabama. As well, he is an associate with Cory Watson in Birmingham.

Ben Wear cofounded Thompson Hays & Wear LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ginny Willcox Leavens and her husband, Joe, founded Homewood Bagel Company (HBC) in Homewood, Alabama. As well, she continues her practice with Balch & Bingham in Birmingham, Alabama.

2012

Andrew Boulter is an attorney with Mercedes-Benz in Vance, Alabama.

Elizabeth Lyerly Brasher joined Oakworth Capital Bank as a client adviser in trust administration and wealth planning in Montgomery, Alabama.

Laura Guarino Cunliffe is special assistant to the president, Domestic Policy Council, Executive Office of the President, Washington, D.C.

Brandon J. Demyan was named to the Leadership Forum Class 14 of the Alabama State Bar.

Michael E. Eldridge is an associate at Hollis Wright Clay & Vail in Birmingham, Alabama.

Setara Foster is 2017-18 co-chair, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association.

Michael C. Guarino is a shareholder of Carr Allison in Vestavia, Alabama.

Korie Bledsoe Jones is a member of Mounger and Molder in Columbia, Tennessee, and is the city attorney of Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee.

Katie Kimbrell is director of Dispute Resolution and Operational Risk for ProEquities (a division of Protective Life) in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tina Lam is 2017-18 co-chair, Women Lawyers Section, Birmingham Bar Association.

Michelle Delgado Parsons is a recruiting manager at Clear Diligence in Nashville, Tennessee.

Gerri Plain became a partner of Gaines Gault Hendrix PC in Huntsville, Alabama.

John P. Policastro was promoted to major, U.S. Army JAG Corps and is earning his LL.M. in military law and legal leadership at the JAG School (University of Virginia) in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Brian C. Richardson was appointed as second vice chair for the Construction Substantive Law Group of DRI's Insurance Law Committee.

Lanice Turens is an attorney with Brock & Stout in Mobile, Alabama.

Breanne Zarzour was appointed by Mayor Sandy Stimpson as a new member of the Board of Commissioners of the Mobile Housing Authority in Mobile, Alabama.

2013

Nicholas Arciniegas is an attorney at the Rolon-Grau Immigration Law Firm in Falls Church, Virginia.

M. Ali Barnes is a principal agent at A. Barnes & Company in Mobile, Alabama.

Victoria Ebrahimi Charles is an attorney at Alexander Shunnarah Personal Injury Attorneys PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brittney Belle B. Claud is an associate at Starnes Davis Florie LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

K. Baker Findley is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

Joanna L. Hair is an associate with Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ashley Heidger was promoted to senior trial attorney in the Montgomery County Public Defender's Office in Montgomery, Alabama.

Yawanna Nabors McDonald became a partner of Campbell Guin in Birmingham, Alabama.

Robert McNaughton is assistant vice president and assistant general counsel at Primerica near Atlanta, Georgia.

Samir Shah is assistant general counsel at Building Materials Construction Solutions in Duluth, Georgia.

Joseph M. Staub is a BMA/ASL look back analyst for ProBank Austin in Nashville, Tennessee.

Capt. Brittany Tedford, U.S. Air Force JAG, is a special victims' advocate and spoke at a forum examining sexual assault in the military, as part of a meeting of the Defense Advisory Committee that was created by Congress in 2016 to investigate and advise the secretary of defense and congressional armed services members on matters of sexual misconduct.

Al Teel was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Section of the Birmingham Bar Association.

2014

Madalyn Miller Davis is an associate at Grissom Law in John's Creek, Georgia.

Christopher Friedman is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama. Also, Friedman's article, "Judging Locally: A Right Worth Protecting," was published in the Sept./Oct. 2017 issue of the *Alabama Municipal Journal*.

Lance Goodson is an associate at Badham & Buck LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

April Jackson MacLennan is an associate at the Law Offices of John Charles Bell LLC in Homewood, Alabama.

Andrew Olds joined Fifth Dimension Architecture & Interiors as an architect in Birmingham, Alabama.

Zach Meltzer is an inside sales representative at 8x8 in Liberty Corner, New Jersey.

Steven Wade Strother Jr. is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

Perry P. Taylor is an associate at Balch & Bingham in Jackson, Mississippi.

Sam Weisgarber is serving as a coach for a mock trial team at University of Wisconsin Law School. He continues to work at ProAssurance in Madison, Wisconsin.

2015

Abby Broyles is an attorney at Ada County Public Defender's Office in Boise, Idaho.

Alison Dennis is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Huntsville, Alabama.

Thomas Edington is a contract specialist at Change Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia.

Adam McKinney is global director of government relations and policy for Buckner International in Houston, Texas.

Samuel D. Nokovich is an associate wealth adviser at Truxton Trust in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jessica B. Spade is an associate at McGlinchey Stafford in Birmingham, Alabama.

Spenser Templeton is an associate at Massey Stotser & Nichols in Birmingham, Alabama.

David Trice is an associate with Partridge Smith PC in Mobile, Alabama.

2016

Rachel Cobble is attorney at Friedman Dazzio Zulanis & Bowling PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

J. Krista Cowley is a compliance specialist at BBVA Compass in Birmingham, Alabama.

Elise Gilbert is an associate with David P. Condon PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Joey Gomez is president of Florida Entity Solutions LLC in Miami, Florida.

Matthew Hoyle is an associate at Tumlin Law Group in Dahlonega, Georgia.

R. Brook Meadows III joined Miller Christie & Kinney PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Alan Moore was appointed chairman of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity's 2017-19 Fraternity Laws Committee. Also, his paper, "Armed Conflict in a Post-9/11 World: Do the Geneva Conventions Still Apply?" was selected for publication in the upcoming 15th volume of the *Loyola University Chicago International Law Review*.

Caroline Collins Muse is an assistant general counsel at Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

Matthew P. Neely is a library student assistant at Gallagher Law Library at the University of Washington, in Seattle, while he completes a Master of Law Librarianship there.

Brook Robertson is an associate at Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brandi Russell is director of Admission and Financial Aid at Mercer Law School in Macon, Georgia.

Autumn Smith is a research contracts administrator and attorney at University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

Spencer E. Walker is an associate at Wilson & Berryhill PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Katie Willoughby is an associate at Wallace Jordan Ratcliff & Brandt in Birmingham, Alabama.

2017

C. Bowman Archer is a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Roderick P. Stout, Mobile County Circuit Court, Alabama.

Anna Akers is an associate with Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mollie Anderson is an associate at Bill G. Hall PC in Huntsville, Alabama.

Joshua A. Baker is an associate at Wrady & Baker in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hayden Bashinski is an associate at Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

Adam Buddenbohn is an associate at Husch Blackwell in its business litigation practice in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Jessica Catlin was the featured speaker at RamLegacy, a new initiative to support and encourage first-generation-to-college students through building connections with alumni of the University of Mobile. As well, Jessica is an assistant district attorney for Mobile County, Alabama.

Lindsey Voelker Davis is an associate at Morris Bart LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Austin Evans is an associate at Howell & Fisher in Nashville, Tennessee.

Rebecca Guidry is a federal judicial law clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

Nicolas Gutierrez is an associate with Cory Watson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dillon Hobbs is an associate at Gaines Gault Hendrix PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hamilton Jordan is an associate at Alexander Shunnarah Injury Lawyers PC in Nashville, Tennessee.

David S. Manush is an associate at Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

Zachary P. Mardis is an associate at Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

Andrew McCarley is working in procurement compliance at Boeing Autonomous & Space Systems and also serving on the board of the National Association of Spaceports in or near Washington, D.C.

Miya Moore is an associate at Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

N. Riley Murphy is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Birmingham, Alabama.

Elizabeth Ann Naro is a compliance manager at McGriff Seibels & Williams in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ashley Vickers O'Neal is an associate at Lloyd Gray Whitehead & Monroe in Birmingham, Alabama.

Alexandra Parish is an associate at Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

Cameron Parsons Jr. is an associate at The Parsons Firm in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Howard (Trey) G. Perdue III is an associate at Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

Justin Pipkins is an associate at Fuller Hampton LLC in Alexander City, Alabama.

Brooke Boucek Rebarchak is an associate at McCallum Methvin & Terrell PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Alyson Smith is an associate at Maynard Cooper & Gale in Huntsville, Alabama.

Evan E. Smith IV is an associate at Watson Spence in Albany, Georgia.

Bianca Svensson is an associate at Martenson Hasbrouck & Simon LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

Miranda Coley Taylor is an associate at Morris Bart LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jordan M. Thompson is a client associate at Merrill Lynch in Atlanta, Georgia. As well, Lt. Thompson remains an executive officer [Infantry] and first lieutenant, chief of staff, responsible for infantry headquarters' administrative operations and second in command of the company.

Will Thompson is an associate at Huie Fernambucq & Stewart LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Aaron Wells is an associate at Robinson Smith & Wells in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

John Wilson is an associate at Ginger Wilson Buchanan Law Office in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

MARRIAGES

Dylan Angeline '16 married Meghan Hofto on Oct. 28, 2017.

Walker Beauchamp '16 and **Laura Yetter '18** were married on Dec. 30, 2017.

Kyle Beckman '11 married Morgan Booker on March 3, 2018.

Jason Bonar '98 and **Sandi Eubank Gregory '98** were married on Sept. 13, 2017.

Krystal Drummond '10 and Chris Williams were married on Oct. 28, 2017.

Rebecca Hall '14 married Neal Coleman on Oct. 28, 2017.

Holly Harkins '17 and **Drew Worley '17** were married on March 24, 2018.

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Denetra Hartzog '11 married Kelvin Michell Jr. on Oct. 14, 2017.

Nicole Henderson '17 married Michael Watson on March 3, 2018.

Elise McFall '16 and **Matthew Hoyle '16** were married on Nov. 22, 2017.

David Manush '17 married Jayne Hafizi on Dec. 9, 2017.

Braden Moore '18 married Lauren Hotard on April 7, 2018.

Austin Nichols '16 and Sam Boukli were married on March 3, 2018.

J. Curry Robertson '13 married Rachel Cohen Blume on April 7, 2018.

Kimberly Sanders '08 married Lars Rudstam on Oct. 7, 2017.

Brittany Stancombe '12 married Andrew Hopper on Oct. 14, 2017.

Brittany Tedford '13 married Tyler Byrd on Jan. 13, 2018.

Wesley Walker '18 married Leslie Bacon on March 11, 2018.

Sara Williams '06 and Montrell Davis were married on Oct. 21, 2017.

BIRTHS

Kendra Apple Birtsch '11 and Hunter Birtsch welcomed their son, Everett King Birtsch, on March 18, 2018.

Patrick Bobo '08 and Kellie Barry announced the birth of their daughter, Allie Claire Bobo, on Jan. 18, 2018.

M. Burt Bray '13 and **Jennifer Reynolds Bray '13** announced the birth of their daughter, Hattie Reynolds, on Sept. 5, 2017.

Kristen Burge '10 and **Chris Burge '09** welcomed their daughter, Emery Grace Burge, on Jan. 29, 2018.

Matt Conn '09 and Elizabeth Conn announced the birth of their son, James Richard Conn, on June 4, 2017.

April DeLuca '12 and Jason DeLuca announced the birth of their daughter, Caroline Drew DeLuca, on Feb. 19, 2018.

Heather Retchless Demyan '12 and **Brandon Demyan '12** welcomed their son, Ethan Demyan, on Dec. 27, 2017.

Elizabeth Eiland '12 and Lance Eiland, announced the birth of their daughter, Anna Claire Eiland, on Dec. 24, 2017.

Jenna Day Fulk '12 and **Andrew Fulk '11** announced the birth of their daughter, Mary Francis Fulk, on Oct. 24, 2017.

Lisha Graham '09 and Henry Graham welcomed their daughter, Elizabeth "Grey" Graham, on Nov. 15, 2017.

Abigail Bains Harris '13, and Jimmy Harris announced the birth of a son, William Hamilton Harris, on Aug. 9, 2017.

David Hayes '10 and Elizabeth Hayes welcomed their son, Henry Hayes, on Dec. 6, 2017.

Andrew Herring '10 and **Nina Towle Herring '14** announced the birth of their son on April 2018.

Leslee Champion Hungerford '13 and **Blake Hungerford '13** announced the arrival of their daughter, Emerson Teel Hungerford, on Feb. 10, 2018.

Clay Johnson '15 and Brandy Johnson welcomed their daughter, Milly Caroline Johnson, on Nov. 22, 2017.

Lana Keith '08 and **Travis Keith '08** welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Ellington Keith, on March 6, 2018.

Michael Krombach '13 and **Margaret "Meggie" Krombach '13** announced the birth of their daughter, Margaret Loving, on Nov. 1, 2017.

Robyn Lee '08 and Nickolas Lee welcomed their daughter, Sydney Rose Lee, on January 14, 2018.

Shelley Lewis '04 and Jorge Gonzalez announced the birth of their daughter, Alexandra Amelia Lewis Gonzalez, on March 5, 2018.

Haley Colson Lewis '13 and **Zach Lewis '13** announced the birth of their daughter, Vivian Lewis, May 19, 2017.

Cameron McEwen '07 and Cindy Norris McEwen announced the birth of their daughter, Liala Paige, on Nov. 6, 2017.

Rory McKean '13 and Ashley McKean welcomed a daughter, Collins McKean, on Oct. 12, 2017.

Jackson Neal '14 and Tiffany Neal, welcomed their daughter, Lillian Scott "Scotty" Neal on Sept. 6, 2017.

Brandon Prince '11 and his wife Angelica Prince welcomed their son, Brandon Christopher Prince Jr., on Dec. 3, 2017.

Katie Lynn Parrott Tubbs '11 and Fletcher Tubbs welcomed their son, Noah Parker, on April 6, 2018.

W. Hunter Walton '09 and Kate Walton welcomed their daughter, Harriett (Hattie) Cord, on Sept. 22, 2017.

Eric Wood '10 and Deirdre Wood welcomed their daughter, Cecilia Grace, on December 12, 2017.

IN MEMORIAM

M. Clay Alspaugh '71 passed away on Oct. 24, 2017.

David W. Boone '78 passed away on March 13, 2018.

Brad Booth '09 passed away on Nov. 29, 2017.

Donald Ford Butler Jr. '78 passed away on Feb. 23, 2018.

Hon. John C. Calhoun '72 passed away on Nov. 25, 2017.

Col. Allen Edward Cook '66 passed away on Dec. 14, 2017.

Leo Cooper '77 passed away on Jan. 6, 2017.

Jean Darby '86 passed away on Oct. 19, 2017.

Charles W. "Buz" Dooley '69 passed away on Dec. 2, 2017.

Dwight Lee Driskill '76 passed away in 2017.

Edward Ervin IV '87 passed away on Nov. 7, 2017.

Scott Foster '03 passed away on Nov. 12, 2017.

Jonathan Gathings '84 passed away on Dec. 17, 2017.

Karla G. Gothard '81 passed away on Dec. 20, 2017.

Frank Gramling '75 passed away on March 27, 2018.

Robert Wilson King '50 passed away on Feb. 27, 2018.

Thomas Giles Meacham '77 passed away on March 28, 2018.

Judge Patrick James Roma '75 passed away on Nov. 26, 2017.

John H. Shannon '75 passed away on Dec. 24, 2017.

Allen Kuno von Spiegelfeld '74 passed away on Feb. 14, 2018

James H. Stansell Jr. '76 passed away in March 2017.

Belle Howe Stoddard '78 passed away on Jan. 30, 2018.

Quirino Charles Tatti '54 passed away in March 2017.

John Franklin Wade '73 passed away on Nov. 18, 2017

Richard A. Wetherill '70 passed away on Feb. 7, 2018.

J. Matthew Wilson '09 passed away on Feb. 27, 2018.

Eric N. Wise '73 passed away on Feb. 14, 2018.



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As part of Samford University's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of integration, the university recognized 29 African-American graduates with the inaugural Audrey Gaston Howard Awards during the month of February 2018. Cumberland alumni receiving the recognition include:



Audrey L. Gaston Howard '70

(died in 1989)

- First African-American student to enroll full time at Samford University, entering Cumberland School of Law in 1967
- First woman appointed to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Southeast, 1970
- Appointed courts liaison adviser to the staff of the National Criminal Justice Commission, 1972
- Served as legislative assistant to U.S. Representative John Buchanan of Alabama beginning in 1975



Houston L. Brown '73

- Presiding circuit judge, retired, Jefferson County, Alabama, Civil Division, 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama
- Circuit judge, 2000-15
- Attorney at law, Birmingham, Alabama, 1973-2000, serving on Birmingham Bar Association and other bar association committees



Anthony Joseph '80

- Attorney with the firm of Maynard Cooper & Gale, Birmingham
- President of the Alabama State Bar, 2013-14
- Former Alabama State Bar commissioner
- Past chair, American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section
- President of the Birmingham Bar Association, 2007



Helen Shores Lee '87

- First African-American woman to serve as judge on the Jefferson County (Alabama) Circuit Court
- Former member and chair of the Alabama State Ethics Commission
- Former director, Clinical Outreach Services, Jefferson County Department of Health
- Served as a magistrate for the city of Birmingham
- Author with her sister of a book, *The Gentle Giant of Dynamite Hill*, about growing up in Birmingham with their father, famous civil rights attorney Arthur Shores



Lisa J. Sharp '92

- Senior counsel, Office of General Counsel, Employee Relations, Southern Company Services, Atlanta, Georgia, 2015-present
- Member, Lawyers Club of Atlanta
- Previously with the firm of Balch & Bingham LLP in Birmingham, 1992-2015
- Former member, Samford University Board of Overseers



Randall Woodfin '07

- Elected the 30th mayor of his hometown, Birmingham, in 2017
- President of the Birmingham City School Board, 2013-15
- Served as assistant city attorney, and worked with the Division of Youth Services, Birmingham City Council and Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity
- Active in community service; has served as a board member for various organizations



Roderick Evans '10

- Experienced litigator and advocate with the Birmingham firm of Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt
- Serves as assistant city attorney for the city of Hoover, Alabama, and counsel for other governmental boards
- President, Cumberland Student Bar Association, and recipient of Spirit of Service award for completing more than 100 hours of community service

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Ghee, Draper & Alexander Family Serving Families

by Morgan Black



In spring 1975, Doug Ghee may not have imagined the path ahead of him when he graduated from Cumberland School of Law. Or, maybe he did.

After receiving an undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama in 1968, he entered law school with two children and graduated with four. He and his wife, Brenda, a Samford University education alumna from 1977, expanded their family even more after his graduation from Cumberland.

“Being in law school with young children was difficult, but well worth the sacrifice in the short term and for the long term,” Ghee said.

In 1977, Ghee and his friend, Henry Agee, started Agee and Ghee. They practiced together for six years until Agee moved to Tennessee. Ghee then ran for, and was elected, as an Alabama state senator where he served from 1990 until 1998. Ghee said, “Being a state senator was a good extension of service but it was very time consuming.” After his two terms as an elected official, Ghee decided to dedicate his work to serving families in the Anniston, Alabama, area.

Wendy Ghee Draper '97, was the first to join him in his Anniston firm. She is married to Jack Draper '98, also a Cumberland lawyer, who is currently serving as mayor of Anniston.

Jennifer Ghee Downey, a Jones School of Law graduate, was the next to join the family firm. Jennifer is married to Cumberland graduate and Anniston city attorney Bruce Downey '06. Jennifer's twin, Daphne Ghee Maxwell, is one of the few in the family who

does not practice law. Jennifer and Daphne were born during Ghee's last year of law school.

Laura Ghee Alexander and David Alexander, both joined the firm after their graduation from Jones School of Law in 2005.

Lindsay Ghee, a graduate from Birmingham School of Law in 2016, has now been with the firm for nearly two years. “At family gatherings we try to talk about other things for the non-lawyers in the family,” Ghee said. “But, it's easy to combine business with family matters when you like your business and enjoy what you do.”

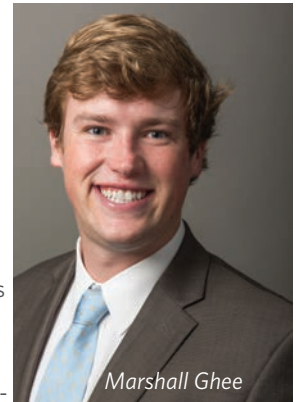
The only son and Ghee's youngest child, Marshall, is currently enrolled at Cumberland and will graduate in 2020. Will he join the family business?

“He has indicated that he wants to come practice with this father and sisters,” Ghee said. “If that is what he decides, he can submit his application, but, we want him to explore other things and do what he wants to do. I don't think that his application would be denied.”

In addition, there are numerous grandchildren in the family, one of which is a junior at the University of Alabama and has shown an interest in a legal career. “I certainly will encourage my grandchildren to pursue the law. Short of the ministry, there is no better service to human kind.”

When asked what his children would say about his leadership attributes, Ghee mentioned, “I hope they'd say that I'm caring, helpful, tolerant and offer good advice based on my experience.”

Ghee concluded, “I think it's great to make a living doing what we're supposed to be doing anyways—serving people. I remind the kids all the time that that is one of the biggest blessings of being a lawyer.”



“Cumberland has given us, starting with me, a very good foundation and offers a wide range of options,” said Ghee. “The education that Cumberland provides is ‘tip-top.’”



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