Samford University
Cumberland School of Law

Continuing Legal Education
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham, AL 35229

JERE F. WHITE JR.
TRIAL ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

Generously Sponsored By



JERE F. WHITE JR.
TRIAL ADVOCACY INSTITUTE

Supporting the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program at Cumberland School of Law

November 6, 2026

The Harbert Center I Birmingham, Alabama
Six CLE hours, including one ethics hour
Featuring Rick Bragg, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and member of the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame

SCAN TO REGISTER OR VISIT SAMFORD.EDU/GO/ADVOCACY-INSTITUTE

Presented by:

CLE CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF TRIAL LAWYERS

Program Agenda

**You must be present at the drawing to win.*
*** Ethics Hour*

7:45 a.m. **Check-in**

8:25 a.m. **Welcome** | Drawing for 2026 Iron Bowl Tickets*

Welcome: Kendall Dunson
Beasley Allen Law Firm
Montgomery, Alabama

Morning Session Moderator: M. Christian King
Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC
Birmingham, Alabama

8:30 a.m. **Voir Dire**

Jessica McDill
Chason & Chason, PC
Bay Minette, Alabama

9 a.m. **Opening Statement**

Plaintiff Perspective: Kendall C. Dunson
Beasley Allen Law Firm
Montgomery, Alabama

Defendant Perspective: Chuck Burkhart
Balch & Bingham, LLP
Birmingham, Alabama

10 a.m. **Refreshment Break**

10:15 a.m. **Direct Examination** | Drawing for Helen Restaurant Gift Certificate*

Michael L Bell
Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC
Birmingham, Alabama

10:45 a.m. **Ethics Panel****

Hon. Roman Shaul
Alabama State Bar
Montgomery, Alabama

Michael Upchurch
Frazer Greene LLC
Mobile, Alabama

Gaynor St. John
St. John & St. John
Cullman, Alabama

Eugene K. Pettis
ACTL Regent
Osborne, Francis & Pettis
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Moderator: Sandra Forbes
President, ACTL
Toronto, Ontario

11:45 a.m. **The Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program and Tribute to Jere F. White Jr.**

Samuel H. Franklin
Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC
Birmingham, Alabama

Dean Blake Hudson
Cumberland School of Law
Birmingham, Alabama

12:10 p.m. **Luncheon and Keynote Speaker**

Introduction of Speaker: Harlan I. Prater IV
Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC
Birmingham, Alabama

Speaker: Rick Bragg
The University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

1:15 p.m. **Break**

Afternoon Session Moderator: Eddie Jackson
Jackson Brakefield, LLC
Jasper, Alabama

1:30 p.m. **Cross-Examination** | Drawing for Harrison Limited Custom Suit*

Plaintiff Perspective: Leon Ashford
Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newton
Birmingham, Alabama

Defendant Perspective: Walter W. Bates (Billy)
Starnes Davis Florie LLP
Birmingham, Alabama

2:30 p.m. **Refreshment Break**

2:40 p.m. **Judicial Panel**

Hon. Gregory C. Cook
Supreme Court of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

Hon. Embry J. Kidd
U.S. Court of Appeals 11th Circuit
Atlanta, Georgia

Hon. Elisabeth A. French
10th Judicial Circuit
Birmingham, Alabama

Hon. Madeline H. Haikala
U.S. District Circuit Court
Northern District of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama

Moderator: Bob MacKenzie
Starnes Davis Florie LLP
Birmingham, Alabama

3:40 p.m. **Closing Arguments** | Drawing for Gus Mayer Gift Certificate*

Plaintiff Perspective: David H. Marsh
Marsh, Rickard & Bryan
Birmingham, Alabama

Defendant Perspective: D. Taylor Flowers
Lewis, Brackin, Flowers & Johnson
Dothan, Alabama

4:40 p.m. **Adjourn** | Drawing for 2026 SEC Championship Football Tickets*

Program Committee

Kendall C. Dunson
Beasley Allen Law Firm

M. Christian King
Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC

Robert P. MacKenzie, III
Starnes Davis Florie LLP

Brian P. McCarthy
McDowell Knight Roedder & Sledge, LLC

Harlan I. Prater IV
Lightfoot Franklin & White, LLC



Rick Bragg

Rick Bragg was born in the small city of Piedmont in northeastern Alabama and grew up in the tiny community of Possum Trot near Jacksonville. He credited his ability to write to listening to his family tell stories. He was raised primarily by his mother, as his father was an alcoholic and rarely home. His relatives were also very involved in his young life and greatly influenced his personal and emotional development.

Bragg worked at several newspapers before joining the New York Times in 1994. He covered murders and unrest in Haiti as a metro reporter, then wrote about the Oklahoma City bombing, the 1998 Westside idle School shooting, and the Susan Smith trial as a national correspondent based in Atlanta. He later became the paper's Miami bureau chief. Bragg won the Pulitzer Prize for his work.

Bragg has authored eleven books. His first, and the title readers around the world most recognize, "All Over But the Shoutin'" tells of his childhood in Alabama, his rise to becoming a journalist, his personal struggles and the stories of the people he cares about. The book pays special attention to his mother who raised Bragg and his two brothers on her own.

Rick Bragg, along with Harper Lee was in the inaugural class of the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame. He holds more than fifty major writing awards and with the passing of Harper Lee and his friend Pat Conroy, is considered by critics as the most beloved living Southern writer.

American College of Trial Lawyers, Alabama Fellows

The Alabama Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers are pleased to be a co-sponsor with Samford University's Cumberland School of Law for the Jere F. White Jr. Trial Advocacy Institute. We are proud that Jere, a Cumberland alumnus, was a member of our group. The American College of Trial Lawyers was founded in 1950 with a mission to maintain and improve the standards of trial practice, the administration of justice, and ethics of our profession. The Fellows represent plaintiffs and defendants, and are from all parts of the trial bar. The College is proud that its Fellows include every member of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of Canada. The Alabama Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers are dedicated to carrying out the mission of the College as was epitomized by Jere, and are proud supporters of the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program.

W. Harold Albritton III
D. Leon Ashford
W. Michael Atchison
Dennis R. Bailey
Douglas Brent Baker
Walter W. Bates
Randy Beard
Gloria A. Bedwell
Michael L. Bell
Gregory B. Breedlove
Robert C. (Mike) Brock
Toby D. Brown
S. Greg Burge
Charles A. Burkhart
Kevin L. Butler
David S. Cain
Allan R. Chason
William N. Clark
Ralph D. Cook
Robert T. Cunningham, Jr.
John V. Denson II
William J. Donald
Kendall Dunson

Michael L. Edwards
Joe Espy III
George W. Finkbohner III
Michael A. Florie
Douglass Taylor Flowers
George P. Ford
Louis V. Franklin, Sr.
Samuel H. Franklin
A. Danner Frazer, Jr.
Christine A. Freeman
Charles P. Gaines
James W. Gewin
Richard H. Gill
Callie V. S. Granade
Fred D. Gray
G. Rick Hall
Robert B. Harwood, Jr.
David J. Hodge
Broox G. Holmes
Wilbor J. Hust, Jr.
Edward R. Jackson
Richard S. Jaffe
Anthony A. Joseph

Thomas Howard Keene
Fred W. Killion, Jr.
M. Christian King
Michael D. Knight
Dennis J. Knizley
George E. Knox, Jr.
John N. Leach, Jr.
Warren B. Lightfoot
Jack Livingston
Robert P. MacKenzie III
David H. Marsh
Brian P. McCarthy
Jessica M. McDill
Crawford S. McGivaren, Jr.
Walter E. McGowan
Joseph S. Miller
Harvey B. Morris
John H. Morrow
Tabor R. Novak, Jr.
Donna Sanders Pate
Adam K. Peck
W. Lee Pittman
Scott A. Powell

Harlan I. Prater IV
W. Stanley Rodgers
Alan T. Rogers
Nicholas B. Roth
S. Shay Samples
John D. Saxon
Robert D. Segall
Randal H. Sellers
Patrick M. Shegon
Finis St. John IV
Gaynor L. St. John
Frank J. Stakely
W. Stancil Starnes
Charles Andrew Stewart III
A. Edwin Stuardi III
Albert J. Trousdale II
Preston S. Trousdale, Jr.
Michael E. Upchurch
Joe R. Whatley, Jr.
James E. Williams
E. Hamilton Wilson, Jr.
James A. (Jim) Yance
Paul A. Young, Jr.



In Memory of Jere F. White Jr.

Jere F. White Jr. will long be recognized as one of the most outstanding lawyers in the country. More importantly, he will be remembered as a great person, friend and mentor. A graduate of the University of Georgia and Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, Jere was a founding member of Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC in Birmingham. Jere held himself and others to the highest standard of the practice of law. A third-generation laawyer, he was truly a lawyer's lawyer. He cherished his relationships with the Bench and lawyers on both sides of the Bar. Jere balanced his success as a lawyer with an even stronger devotion to his faith, family, friends and community. Prior to his death on Oct. 3, 2011, Jere and his wife, Lyda, established the Jere F. White Jr. Fellows Program at Cumberland. The Fellows Program seeks to recruit not only outstanding students with strong academic credentials, but also a history of leadership and commitment to service, thereby promoting the development of lawyers who share the ideals that were so important to Jere.