

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY / FALL 2019 / ALUMNI MAGAZINE

CUMBERLAND LAWYER





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Pictured on the left:
Brigadier General Bill Dyer '92
featured on page 8.

Cover:
Learn more about 1st. Lt. Solly
Thomas, a second-year law
student, on page 16.

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



Service is a core mission of Cumberland School of Law and an essential part of the school's culture.

Accounts of our graduates' remarkable service to the profession, to their communities, and to their country have filled the pages of the *Cumberland Lawyer* through the years. No group better exemplifies Cumberland's broad and deep commitment to service than the many Cumberland graduates who served our country in the United States armed forces. As Lt. Col. Jay Skinner '93 notes in these pages, an extraordinary number of Cumberland graduates have gone on to distinguished careers in the military after law school. Many more served with distinction before enrolling at Cumberland. Still others served before, after and sometimes even during law school. This issue of the *Cumberland Lawyer* pays tribute to all these alumni by describing the remarkable work and service of just a few.

I have had the honor of having some of these and other veterans in my class over the years. Law students who have served in the armed forces seem to share important attributes. As one might expect, they are always disciplined. They find a way to complete all their work on time. They are always respectful, not only of faculty but

Military Service

of their classmates. They are leaders, pitching in, solving problems and helping other students navigate the stress of law school. They perceive the bigger picture of life, recognizing the importance of family, friends and having a sense of humor. For example, Brigadier General Bill Dyer '92, whose extraordinary work is described in this issue, was known during law school not only for being an excellent law student but also for founding "The Bill Review."

I am grateful, inspired and awed by the never-ending service of Cumberland veterans. One of the most humbling, but proud, moments of my life was when a Cumberland student and officer on active duty came to my office in uniform on the last day of class and saluted me. I hope all Cumberland veterans accept this issue of the *Cumberland Lawyer* as our salute and our deepest thanks.



Henry C. (Corky) Strickland II

Cumberland School of Law

By the Numbers

#15
in trial
advocacy

—U.S. News & World Report, 2020

9 joint-degree programs,
including the most
popular J.D./M.B.A.

Top 20%

Military Friendly School List, 2019
Silver (Top 20% of Graduate Schools)

Pre-Law Magazine **Employment Honor Roll**

Fall 2019 Entering Class:

159 students

153 median LSAT

75th percentile: 156 | 25th percentile: 150

3.48 median GPA

75th percentile: 3.65 | 25th percentile: 3.25

16 states represented

Average age: 23

55% female | 45% male

More than \$2.5 million

in scholarships awarded
to entering students

15 law schools represented by faculty members, including
those with degrees from Harvard, Stanford and Yale

24 full-time faculty members

#3 in best
quality
of life

—The Princeton Review, 2019

9,000+
active alumni

35 student organizations

437 total enrolled students in fall 2019, including
4 foreign exchange students



Anne Marovich with Lt. Col. T.J. Skinner IV '93 (left) and Maj. Matt Davis '09 (right).

FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

This issue is dedicated to alumni who have served or are currently serving in our United States military. As Lt. Col. Skinner describes on the following page, it is a high number, and we at Cumberland School of Law and Samford University are extremely proud to call them Cumberland lawyers as well.

The alumni featured in the following pages are only a handful who have impressive military and other professional success. Our pride is not limited to them. As always, I regret we are restricted by page limitation from featuring many other deserving alumni serving our country.

Thank you for serving us and preserving our freedoms!

Anne Marovich
Director, Office of Alumni Relations

Have you moved? Changed jobs or addresses? Received an award or honor?

Cumberland Connections is our digital alumni newsletter published five times per year and the *Cumberland Lawyer* magazine is mailed biannually.

Send us news about your new role or award, a marriage or birth announcement to publish in Class Notes, and submit updated contact information.

Go to
samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/update-your-info
or email amarovic@samford.edu.

*Stay connected to your classmates and the
Cumberland School of Law alumni network!
We can help you to do so.*





Cumberland Lawyers **SERVE**

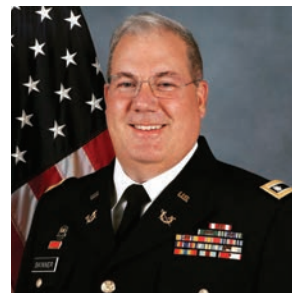
Over the years, Cumberland seems to have developed a unique reputation as a great school for producing military lawyers. No one seems to know how or when this started, but from my observations, Cumberland holds true to its reputation.

Each year, Cumberland graduates are routinely selected through the highly competitive board process for active duty judge advocate general (JAG) commissions in all branches of the United States military. In addition, each year several Cumberland graduates are commissioned into the reserve components of the military including the Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Air National Guard. I myself am a current-serving member of the Alabama Army National Guard.

Not only does Cumberland produce lawyers who are selected for JAG commissions, Cumberland produces lawyers who go on to serve as military leaders. Cumberland is proud to count among its alumni JAG officers who have held general officer rank. Several Cumberland alumni also currently serve as senior staff officers in major military commands across the country providing advice and counsel to his or her commander, his or her staff, in the Army, Navy, Air Force or the Marine Corps. Dozens of Cumberland alumni have served at the Pentagon and overseas in such diverse places as Germany, England, Romania, Japan and Korea, to the deserts of Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Cumberland alumni have served and can be found serving today at bases and installations across the United States from Ft. Benning, Georgia, to Ft. Wainwright, Alaska, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to Pensacola, Florida.

Cumberland also is unique in that each year, its student body includes Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP) students who are selected by their service to attend law school as their duty assignment and several active members of the Army National Guard who already hold a commission through ROTC in college and are currently serving in a National Guard unit. Cumberland is recognized as a veteran-friendly school and regularly sees applications from prior-service veterans.

Perhaps what sets Cumberland apart from other law schools is its welcoming embrace of the military. Cumberland has hosted the Alabama State Bar Military Law Committee's annual Alabama Military Law Symposium on several occasions, and the law school reaches out to the military for recruiting events and opportunities. Cumberland is genuinely proud of its military alumni, its prior-service veteran students and its currently serving students, and Cumberland's military alumni and students are grateful of our law school's support of our military.



Lt. Col. T.J. Skinner IV '93



Brig. Gen. Bill Dyer '92

In late 2018, the United States and its 41-country coalition began earnestly working to determine an end point to the 18-year-long war in Afghanistan. Political and military leaders agreed that the central effort must include increased military and diplomatic pressure on the government of Afghanistan to implement drastic changes in the nation's adherence to the Rule of Law. The Pentagon selected U.S. Army Reserve Brigadier General Bill Dyer to lead the combined U.S. NATO and coalition effort.

Rampant corruption has long been the largest, single impediment to Afghanistan's pursuit of a society governed by the Rule of Law. During his nine-month deployment, Dyer's 100-person team focused on reducing corruption in two key pillars of Afghan society—the Afghan Army and the Afghan National Police. At the outset, he directed that Western investigative processes and legal procedures forced on the Afghans over nearly two decades be mostly abandoned. Although those processes and procedures work well in structured environments like New York, London and Berlin, they often ran counter to Afghan legal traditions. Consequently, their implementation was slow and ineffective. In their place, his team partnered with Afghans to resurrect their own underused and imperfect—but viable—processes, rules and traditions. This changed approach energized the Afghan legal system, resulting in processes that will be sustainable long after the coalition departs. This change also yielded startling short-term effects. More than 70 of the most corrupt senior Afghan Army and police leaders were displaced. Some fled the country when they learned of the renewed effectiveness of their own legal system. Many others were investigated by Afghan investigators and then prosecuted in Afghan courts by Afghan prosecutors—all mentored by members of Dyer's team. The result was widespread popular support for these Rule of Law reforms and steadily increasing momentum behind their implementation.

Dyer recently returned home, resuming his duties as chair of the National Intellectual Property Litigation practice in the Atlanta office of Lee & Hayes, a Washington state-based IP boutique. He also returned to his predeployment Army Reserve duties as the assistant judge advocate general for Military Law and Operations (IMA) at the Pentagon, where he supervises five legal divisions within the Army's Office of the Judge Advocate General and provides legal and policy advice to the Department of the Army's headquarters.

Looking back, Dyer credits the superior dedication and professionalism of his multinational team—and the courage of their Afghan partners—for their success. Unlike his first combat deployment to Iraq in 2003-04 and despite ongoing military hostilities that challenged performance of his team's mission, he found a country ready for change. Equally important as removing corrupt senior leaders were identifying and recommending to the Afghan government principled, energetic and committed leaders who are ready for Afghanistan to stand on its own and become a key ally to the U.S. and its 40 coalition partners. This new wave of Afghans, increasingly filling positions of influence and importance, share the coalition's objective of preventing their country from again becoming a safe haven for the ISIS and Al Qaeda terrorists bent on impinging our freedoms and disrupting our way of life. Although only time will tell the ultimate effectiveness of Dyer's efforts, he takes pride in knowing he applied to a war-torn and corruption-ridden country a basic principle he practices when hiking in the backcountry: he and his team left Afghanistan better than they found it.



Maj. Brittany Tedford Byrd '13

Brittany Tedford Byrd graduated from Samford University in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and from Cumberland School of Law in 2013.

Upon graduating law school, she was accepted into the Air Force Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps and entered into active duty in January 2014.

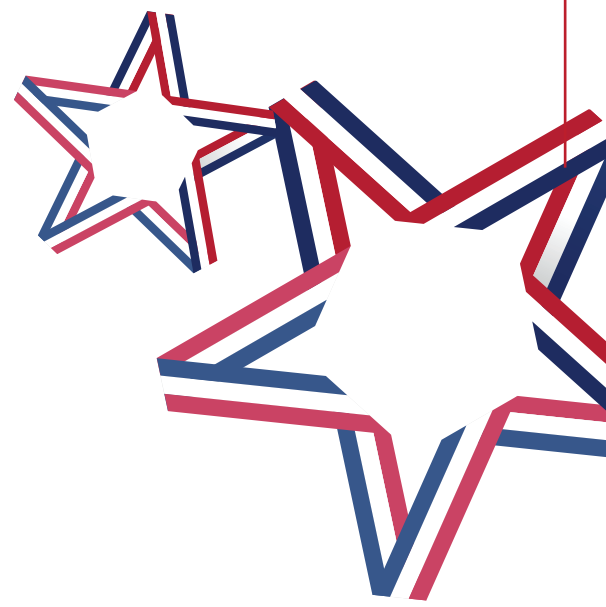
During her second and third years of law school, and until she became active, she worked in the Shelby County, Alabama District Attorney's Office.

"I was born into the Air Force. My dad is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant who served on active duty for 30 years, and my sister has been in the Air Force for 13 years," she said. "I wanted to do something different, so for much of law school, I did not think about joining the Air Force. Then, while I was working at the District Attorney's office my third year, I really loved the trial experience I was getting, so I began looking into the Air Force JAG Corps. I learned that the JAG Corps offered extensive litigation experience to new practitioners. I applied, was accepted and decided to join to get great experience, travel, learn a new area of the law and to serve my country."

Upon entering the Air Force JAG Corps, Byrd attended Commissioned Officer Training and, subsequently, the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. She was then assigned her first duty station at Shaw Air Force Base in South Carolina. While there, her first job was to serve as an assistant staff judge advocate in the base legal office. In this role, Byrd provided legal assistance by writing wills and

advance medical directives for Airmen and their families, and advising them on family law, landlord-tenant issues and consumer protection issues, among others. She then moved into the civil law section of the office where she practiced labor and employment law, reviewed government contracts and provided ethics advice to commanders. Eventually, she became the chief of military justice, where she oversaw the administration of the military justice program for Shaw Air Force Base. This included advising commanders on all aspects of military justice as well as litigating courts-martial. After leaving the base legal office, Byrd was selected to be a special victims' counsel at the base. In this role she represented adult and child sexual assault victims within the military justice system throughout the mid and south Atlantic region. In that capacity, she advised clients throughout all stages of the investigation and prosecution of their sexual assault cases and argued motions on their behalf to enforce victims' rights and privileges. Byrd's current assignment, where she has served since March 2018, is as the staff judge advocate to the Civil Air Patrol-United States Air Force Commander back at Maxwell Air Force Base. Similar to a general counsel, her commander is her client. She is responsible for advising him on any legal issue that comes across his desk. This includes managing a federal grant, fiscal law, labor and employment, government ethics, aviation law, environmental law, and military justice. In July 2019, she was selected for promotion to the rank of major.

"Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. These are the Air Force core values and guiding principles in my life," Byrd closed. "Serving in the military is an amazing opportunity. Not only have I received top-notch training and great professional experience, the men and women I serve with inspire me every day. The sense of teamwork and camaraderie in every office I have worked in is unparalleled."



Col. Frank Coppersmith '94

Frank Coppersmith is the CEO of Smarter Reality, a global software consulting and development company based in Austin, Texas. Smarter Reality works with entrepreneurs and small/medium businesses to build software in the areas of e-commerce, training and simulation, VR/AR, artificial intelligence, and entertainment.

After nearly a decade at DuPont where he served as general counsel to the photomask subsidiary, he left the corporate world and got involved in entrepreneur-led startups, taking his first role in software as the CFO of Challenge Online Games. While there, the company launched two top-ranked games on Facebook. He also got to try his hand at game design, serving as the lead narrative designer for multiple releases. That same year, Coppersmith was named Austin's CFO of the Year by *Austin Business Journal*.

Startups suited him, so he joined GameSalad as studio general manager, growing the company to more than 50 employees, raising over \$16 million in venture-backed funding and, ultimately, taking the company's mobile technology to a leadership position in the market through its adoption by over 15% of the developers on Apple's iOS app store.

Prior to starting Smarter Reality in 2016, Coppersmith served as the president of Capson Technology, a digital health company focused on using artificial intelligence to improve health care backed by Blue Cross Blue Shield Ventures.

Coppersmith is also an active reservist in the U.S. Air Force holding the rank of colonel, specializing in federal procurement and technology acquisition and development.

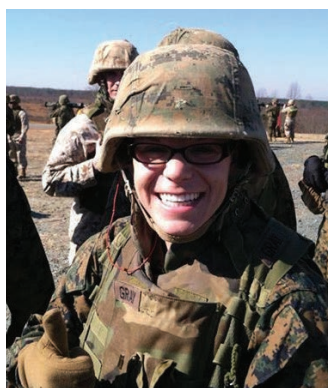
Today, he serves as the senior reserve legal advisory to Air Education and Training Command (AETC) where he oversees 65 legal professionals supporting more than 60,000 active duty, reserve and civilian personnel across 12 major installations. AETC operates 16 active duty and seven reserve wings, flying approximately 1,300 aircraft.

Some of his notable former assignments include leadership tours at U.S. Cyber Command, 24th Air Force/Air Forces Cyber and Air Force Central Command. He has also served as staff judge advocate at numerous U.S. Air Force installations and has been deployed to Iraq, Qatar and Turkey.

He has written and spoken extensively on the impact artificial intelligence will have on the practice of law.

Coppersmith is a 1991 graduate of The Citadel, a 1994 graduate of Cumberland School of Law and a 2005 M.B.A. graduate of The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

He is married to Casey Currie of Crockett, Texas.



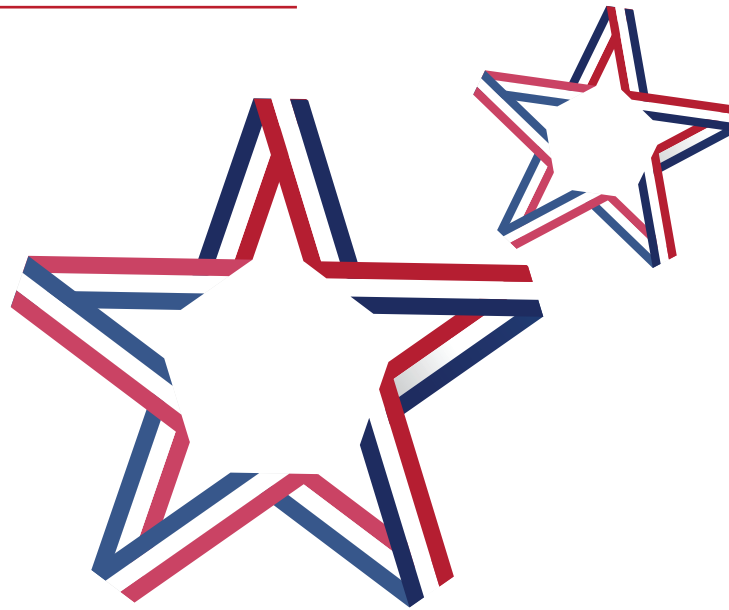
Capt. Kristin Hanna '11

Captain Kristin Hanna has been in the Marine Corps since she graduated from Cumberland in 2011. She served in Yuma, Arizona, as a trial counsel (prosecutor) and as a defense counsel; and in Columbia, South

Carolina, as an operations officer/executive officer. Currently, she works in the Pentagon as the deputy staff judge advocate for Marine Corps Installations Command. Her work ranges from military justice to ethics law.

Specifically, her current responsibilities at the Pentagon include providing advice and counsel to the commander on military justice

issues; including disposition and recommendations on all Marine officer cases in the National Capital Region and within Marine Corps Installations Command; providing advice and counsel to the commander on legal policy and administrative issues such as the Privacy Act, Freedom of Information Act and labor law; acting as an SJA to CMC Designated Ethics Counselor; running the Marine Corps Installations Command Ethics Program; and acting as an ethics counselor for the command. Furthermore, Hanna coordinates legal responses to congressional and media inquiries, and provides legal review of Marine Corps Installations Command orders and regulations.



Brig. Gen. John W. Miller '86

John W. Miller '86 served for 26 years in the U.S. Army before retiring as a brigadier general in 2014. His assignments included prosecutor with the First Cavalry Division; commander of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School; staff judge advocate for III Corps, the First Infantry Division and Army Forces in Turkey (Operation Iraqi Freedom); and various leadership positions at operational levels in the Army and in the Pentagon. His awards included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Parachutist Badge, German Sports Badge and various other commendations.

Miller holds a Bachelor of Arts from Auburn University, a Juris Doctor from Cumberland School of Law, a Master of Laws from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, and a Master of Science in national security strategy from the National War College.

On Sept. 9, 2019, BAE Systems Inc. named Miller vice president and chief counsel for Platforms & Services, headquartered in the

metro Washington, D.C., area. Miller was recently promoted to the senior leadership team after serving as deputy chief counsel for combat vehicles and senior counsel for BAE's intelligence and security sector. He is now responsible for all legal, international trade and compliance, ethics, and security matters across the business to include combat vehicles, weapon systems, ship repair, ordnance systems and BAE Systems in Hagglunds, Sweden.

Miller is married to Polly Garmon Miller, a retired special education teacher, and they have two children. Their son, Jay, is a graduate of Furman University and is currently pursuing a master's degree. Their daughter, Melissa, is a graduate of Duke University and Tulane University Law School, and is now a practicing attorney in New Orleans.

Capt. Stephen B. Moss '68

Update on a Valuable Resource to Veterans

In the fall 2016 issue of *Cumberland Lawyer* magazine, we featured Cumberland alumnus and Samford University Humanitarian of the Year, Stephen B. Moss '68, and his personal service on behalf of veterans. Moss, partner of Holland & Knight, founded Mission United in 2013, in Broward County, Florida.

Mission United assists veterans and their families re-acclimate to civilian life and navigate the system to ensure warm handoffs in their communities to organizations that provide services. Since Mission United was launched by the United Way of Broward County (Greater Fort Lauderdale), 23 United Ways have adopted and launched this initiative throughout our country. United Way Worldwide recently set a goal to have 150 United Ways in the United States develop Mission United initiatives in their communities by 2021.

More than 60 United Ways that have not yet launched Mission United in their communities attended a recent United Way Worldwide webinar to learn how to implement this program for their local veterans.

To date, thousands of veterans and their families have been assisted through Mission United, including former homeless veterans or veterans facing foreclosure who are now in housing and have employment. The pillars of service include pro bono legal services, housing support, employment services, education, health and financial stability. Pro bono legal services are the most requested services and over \$2 million in pro bono legal services have been provided.



Lt. Col. Brian P. Adams '01

Originally from Albertville, Alabama, Lt. Col. Brian P. Adams graduated from Birmingham-Southern College with a bachelor's degree in finance and a minor in history in 1996. In 2001, Adams received his law degree from Cumberland School of Law.

"I knew after graduating from Cumberland I was going to join the Army, after successfully passing the bar exam," Adams said. In January 2002, Adams reported to active duty. His first assignment was to Germany where he spent five years. In 2007, he was assigned to the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where he served as the chief of military justice. Later, he had two follow-on assignments at the Pentagon working for the Office of the Judge Advocate General as an administrative law attorney in 2009-10 and as the chief of domestic operations in the National Security Law Division in 2016-18.

"While I have had many wonderful assignments, the most professionally rewarding posting I have had was as a fellow at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy, in 2015-16," Adams added. His primary focus was teaching international humanitarian law and human rights law to foreign militaries and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). He also had the opportunity to attend several courses and to meet and work with some of the leading figures in international law.

Currently, Adams serves as the deputy staff advocate (deputy general counsel) at the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM). INSCOM executes mission command of operational intelligence and security forces; conducts and synchronizes worldwide, multidiscipline and all-source intelligence, and security operations; delivers linguist support and intelligence-related advanced skills training, acquisition support, logistics, communications, and other specialized capabilities in support of Army, joint and coalition commands, and the U.S. intelligence community.

While serving in the Army, Adams has been deployed three times: twice to Iraq in 2003 and 2006, and once to Afghanistan in 2011.

"What makes serving so truly special and unique are the friendships you develop and the resulting camaraderie and the opportunity to practice in many relevant, diverse areas of law," he said.





Col. Carl "Trey" Dowdey III '98

Earlier this year, Carl "Trey" Dowdey III '98 was selected to take over command of the U.S. Army Reserve's 10th Legal Operations Detachment. He is one of just 28 Legal Operations Detachment commanders nationwide.

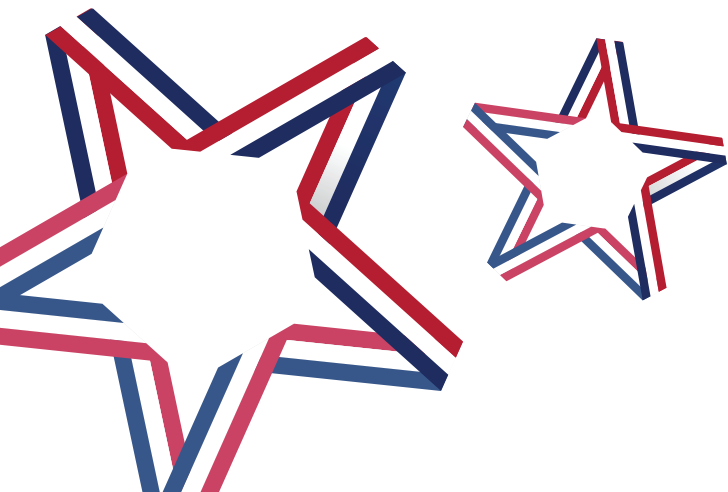
Dowdey is a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve JAG Corps. Previously, he was selected to serve as staff judge advocate for the 412th Theater Engineer Command, a two-star command with more than 12,000 soldiers located in Vicksburg, Mississippi; and he served as a staff judge advocate at the 87th U.S. Army Reserve Support Command (East). Dowdey was on active duty 1998-2002 and was mobilized on active duty 2007-08.

Dowdey maintains a litigation practice with Swift Currie McGhee & Hiers LLP, primarily representing employers and insurance providers in various workers' compensation matters throughout Alabama.

Maj. Matt Thompson '07

After earning his law degree, Major Matt Thompson '07 was commissioned into the Air Force in October 2007. Earlier this year, as he was serving as the deputy staff judge advocate in the 509th Bomb Wing Legal Office at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, he was awarded the Eighth Air Force Outstanding Young Judge Advocate Award for 2018. This award went to Thompson for his exceptional dedication and accomplishments in his role at Whiteman.

In his latest assignment, Thompson is a legal instructor at the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School (AFJAGS). AFJAGS serves the Air Force by providing legal and leadership training to Air Force and Department of Defense attorneys and paralegals through approximately 70 in-residence and distance-learning courses annually. In addition, it also provides legal education to the Air Force's officers and enlisted leadership attending various professional military education schools at Maxwell Air Force Base's Air University (as well as international officers from allied or partner air forces). In all, AFJAGS teaches over 3,000 students per year in the halls of the school and about 20,000 Air Force leaders through our outside teaching initiatives. "He serves as a resident expert on all things military justice, operations law, civilian labor law and government ethics," said Lt. Col. Gregory Thompson, the 509th Bomb Wing staff judge advocate. "He is simply an indispensable part of our team."





Cumberland Students SERVE

One important tenant of Cumberland's mission statement is public service. Our students are encouraged and supported to serve their community in various ways. The following students started serving in their capacities before entering law school and exhibit the most honorable dedication to our country.

Sgt. Kevin Durick, third-year student, served in the U.S. Army as an airborne ranger. Durick is also the leader of Samford University's Campus Veterans Association (CVA). This group, was co-founded in 2015 by Judge John L. Carroll '74, who is a retired U.S. Marine. The CVA is a campuswide organization formed to provide resources to military members (students and alumni) and their families. Each year since its inception, law students and other Samford students, support the CVA as members.

1st Lt. Solly Thomas, second-year student, served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps July 2015–July 2019, at which time he was honorably discharged. Thomas served as a rifle platoon commander, heavy machine gun platoon commander and an executive officer, and was deployed overseas on various occasions. He was a recipient of the Global War on Terror Campaign Ribbon, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, a National Defense Ribbon, and the Navy Commendation Medal.

Petty Officer 2nd Class R. Cody Woods, third-year student, served in the U.S. Navy November 2012–December 2017. He obtained the rank of second class petty officer. As a Navy hospital corpsman and enlisted medical specialist, Woods worked in the Medical Records Department at Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia, for three years and was stationed with the 2nd Marine Division, Headquarters Battalion in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for his last tour. After participating in integrated training exercises with other Marine Corps units from California and North Carolina, he earned the title of fleet marine force specialist in February 2017.

Additionally,

1st Lt. Michael Granger (second-year student),

2nd Lt. Taylor Hinson (third-year student),

2nd Lt. Brenden Smith (third-year student), and

Spc. Kyle Auer (first-year student)

currently serve in the Alabama Army National Guard.

*Thank you, law students, for serving
your country, your law school and
your community!*

From left to right: Sgt. Kevin Durick, 2nd Lt. Taylor Hinson, 1st Lt. Solly Thomas, 2nd Lt. Brenden Smith, 1st Lt. Michael Granger and Spc. Kyle Auer. Not pictured: Petty Officer 2nd Class R. Cody Woods

All Cumberland alumni have access to resources in the Lucille S. Beeson Law Library

Westlaw: Graduating students may extend access through the Grad Elite program: lawschool.westlaw.com/authentication/gradelite. Registered students will get 60 hours per month full access for six months after graduation. Please look for additional information about the Grad Elite program posted by the vendor when you log into Westlaw.

LexisNexis: Graduating students will have access six months after graduation. Please register for Lexis ASPIRE Program lexisnexis.com/grad-access/, which will permit job-related access to Lexis Advance for the duration of public interest work. For access outside of public interest work, continue to use like normal for six months.

Bloomberg: Graduating students will have unlimited Bloomberg access for six months after graduation.



May Commencement

Cumberland School of Law held its spring 2019 commencement ceremony May 10 in the Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center.

Cumberland conferred Juris Doctors to 128 candidates, seven of whom earned a joint degree.

Judge Kevin C. Newsom '94, a Harvard Law School graduate, Cumberland adjunct professor and circuit judge for the eleventh circuit of the United States Court of Appeals, gave the keynote address in which he referenced three cardinal virtues of good judging: objectivity, humility and civility.

The Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award was given to graduate Isabel Montoya-Minisee and senior class president Averie Armstead provided farewell remarks.

Prior to the ceremony, Cumberland held a reception for the graduates and their families inside Memory Leake Robinson Hall.

New Cumberland legacies include:



**Alex Sidwell with his mother,
Laura Sidwell Maki '04**



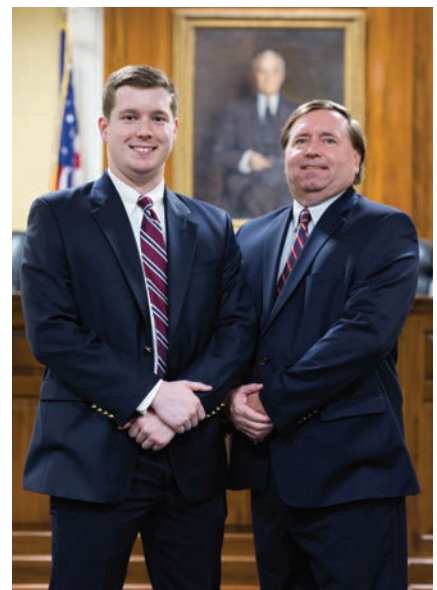
**Sharidan Hollis '16 with her
brother, Stacey Hollis**



**Mary Margaret Clark with her
brother, DeWitt Clark '14**



**Ernie Cory '81 with his daughter,
Hannah Cory**



**Gil Watts with his father, John C.
Watts Jr. '88**



2020 Cumberland School of Law Alumni Awards **Nominate a Cumberland Lawyer for Recognition!**

Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

The Distinguished Alumnus award is given to a Cumberland School of Law graduate who has distinguished herself/himself in the practice of law, service to the community and leadership in the profession.

Young Alumnus of the Year

The Young Alumnus award is given to a Cumberland School of Law graduate who received his/her J.D. within the past 15 years, and who has distinguished herself/himself in the practice of law, service to the community and leadership in the profession.

Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year recognizes an alumnus/a who has demonstrated exceptional loyalty and commitment to the Cumberland School of Law through volunteer service to the school. Faculty and staff of the law school are encouraged to recommend alumni who have given considerable time and talent to the improvement of the law school and its service to students and alumni.

Friend of Cumberland

The Friend of Cumberland award recognizes a person, who though not a graduate of Cumberland School of Law, has contributed time and resources to enhance the quality of the law school and the educational experience of the students.

Nominations Due Feb. 15, 2020

Simply send an email with nominee's name and your reason for nominating to lawalum@samford.edu.

Cumberland Law Review to Publish its 50th Volume

The 2019-20 editorial board is excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for the *Law Review* and for this year's time-honored publication. As a tribute to the *Law Review* and its alumni, we are seeking to highlight the writings of *Cumberland Law Review* ALUMNI in this issue. If you have an interest, please email our acquisitions editor at jwilli34@samford.edu.

Save the Date for the annual *Law Review* Symposium: Feb. 7, 2020



Cumberland School of Law

2019 Fall CLE Programs

Nov. 14	Trends in Commercial Real Estate Law*
Nov. 22	Mandatory Professionalism
Dec. 6	Immigration Law*
Dec. 12	Employment Law Update*
Dec. 18	Legal User's Microsoft Word Academy featuring Barron Henley*
Dec. 20	CLE by the Bundle*

**also available by live webcast*

Webcasts

Live webcasts count as live CLE credit in Alabama. You may receive your full credit hours (12) per year by live webcast.

On-demand Courses

Cumberland CLE offers a wide range of online on-demand CLE courses that you can conveniently view anywhere, 24/7, in increments of time that are convenient for you. You may receive half (six) of your CLE credit hours per year online. Start earning 2019 credit today.

Alabama Law Office Practice Deskbook by Robert McCurley, 2018 Edition, Second Printing (2019) is available.

Organized into 43 chapters with numerous forms, the updated hardcover edition includes the latest laws through the 2019 regular session of the Alabama legislature and a new chapter on immigration.

\$139 plus \$10 for shipping and handling

To order your copy, go to **cumberland.inreachce.com** and locate the item under "Books" to place your order.



Samford University
Cumberland School of Law

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A GLIMPSE AT FACULTY ACTIVITIES



Cassandra Adams

Assistant dean Cassandra Adams presented, along with Judge Martha R. Cook, at the Southeastern Conference on Conflict Management on May 16, 2019. Their presentation was titled "#StayWoke." In addition, Adams was selected to join the Board of Directors of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute.



Ramona C. Albin

In May 2019, Ramona C. Albin, assistant professor and director of advocacy programs, participated in two panels at the Educating Advocates: Teaching Trial Skills conference sponsored by Stetson University School of Law. Albin moderated and participated on a panel titled "Writing and Arguing Evidentiary Motions: Methodologies, Opportunities and Potential Challenges" and was also a panelist discussing "Incorporating Advocacy Training into Doctrinal Classes: The Holy Grail of Legal Education." Also in May, Albin presented a work-in-progress, titled "Appropriating Women's Thoughts: the Admissibility of Sexual Fantasies and Dreams under the Consent Exception to Rape Shield Laws," at a summer workshop of evidence professors at Vanderbilt Law School.



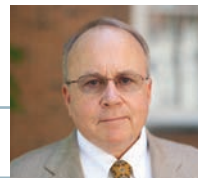
Judge John C. Carroll

Judge John C. Carroll '74 attended the annual meeting of the Uniform Law Commission July 12-15, 2019. He is a member of committees drafting an amendment to the Uniform Athlete Agent's Act and a Uniform Law relating to the registration of Canadian Money Judgments.



Alyssa A. DiRusso

Alyssa A. DiRusso, the Whelan W. and Rosalie T. Palmer professor of law, presented at two panels at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of American Law Schools in late July and early August. Her first presentation centered on trusts and estates pedagogy and the second related to tax incentives for charitable giving and the Everyday Philanthropist Act. DiRusso also published an op-ed recently, titled "Budgeting for Charity: A New Way for the Government to Encourage Giving." It originally appeared online in *The Conversation* (theconversation.com/budgeting-for-charity-a-new-way-for-the-government-to-encourage-giving-112087) and was picked up by the Associated Press and appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Houston Chronicle*, among other places.



Leonard J. Nelson III

The American Law Institute has named Leonard J. Nelson III (Jack), professor emeritus and interim director of the L.L.R. program, an adviser for the institute's new publication, *Restatement of the Law Third, Torts: Concluding Provisions*.

Advisers are subject matter experts recommended to the American Law Institute's Council by its reporters, director and deputy director. As an adviser, Nelson joins a group of more than 40 scholars and legal practitioners who have committed to reviewing drafts of the publication and providing input to reporters.

Torts: Concluding Provisions will address medical liability, vicarious liability, wrongful death, survival actions and other topics not addressed in the previous edition, plus topics updated from the last publication.



Tracey M. Roberts

Assistant professor Tracey M. Roberts was honored to receive one of the two 2019 Lightfoot, Franklin & White Faculty Scholarship Awards in May. Additionally, she presented "Stranded Assets and Competitive Pricing for Regulated Utilities: A Federal Tax Solution" at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, in Washington, D.C., on May 31, 2019. On June 7, 2019 she presented "AI (Artificial Intelligence) and UBI (Universal Basic Income): Contextualizing Support for the Development of Human and Physical Capital" at the Junior Tax Workshop at the University of Richmond School of Law in Richmond, Virginia. She has also been named a 2019-20 Mann Center Faculty Fellow in Community-based Learning for her plan to develop tax and transactional courses for law students.



Grace L. Simms

On Dec. 20, 2018, Grace L. Simms, information technology librarian, presented "Free and Low Cost Online Legal Research: Alternatives to Lexis and Westlaw" at CLE by the Bundle held at Cumberland School of Law. On May 9, 2019, Simms spoke with alumni about the valuable resources available to them at the Lucille S. Beeson Law Library. On June 5, 2019, Simms presented a webinar about teaching tech to law students for AALS as part of their section on Technology Webinars Summer Series.



Samford University and Cumberland School of Law professor emeritus, Governor Albert Preston Brewer was posthumously inducted in the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame on September 17. Brewer served as governor of Alabama 1968-71 and taught at Cumberland School of Law for more than 20 years. He joined the Cumberland faculty in 1987 and, during his tenure, worked to establish the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization devoted to studying issues of public interest effecting state and local government in Alabama.

Learn more about Brewer's legacy on page 25.

Strengthening Curriculum

Lawyering and Legal Reasoning (L.L.R.) is Cumberland's six-credit, yearlong, required, first-year course that encompasses legal research and writing. It is a cornerstone of the first-year curriculum.

This academic year, changes were made to our L.L.R. program to address employer feedback and to focus the program more intensely on its three core objectives: giving Cumberland students a solid foundation in legal analysis, research and writing. The program will require even more writing than in the past (with both short and long assignments) and as much faculty feedback as possible.

Additional changes included reviving the L.L.R. faculty. First, professor emeritus Jack Nelson agreed to serve as the program's interim director this year while a search for a permanent director is to be conducted beginning next year. Second, veteran L.L.R. professor and director of academic

support Lynn Hogewood is assisting professor Nelson with course administration and will continue to help with revising the syllabus, coordinating sections and policies, and assisting new faculty.

Third, veteran L.L.R. faculty Robin Andrews and Mark Baggett will continue to teach sections of L.L.R. Andrews earned two degrees in education and taught high school English before enrolling in Cumberland. She graduated from Cumberland summa cum laude in 1991. She has extensive practice experience, having engaged in private practice and served as in-house counsel to a school system. Baggett, who has taught legal writing for years, has a joint appointment in the law school and Samford University's Department of English. He holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of North Carolina and a Master of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of Alabama.

This year, two outstanding new members of the L.L.R. faculty were added. They are:



Jeff Anderson

Anderson earned his Bachelor of Arts from Furman University, and a Master of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia where he served as notes editor of the *Virginia Law Review*. Before joining the Cumberland faculty, Anderson worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Dennis W. Shedd of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth

Circuit; a litigator at large law firms in Birmingham and Washington, D.C.; and an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. In 19 years of practice, Anderson gained extensive experience in general and appellate litigation in federal and state courts across the country.



Laura Taaffe

Taaffe earned her Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and her Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt Law School where she served as managing editor of the *Vanderbilt Law Review*. She was a law clerk for the

Honorable James Hancock (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama), worked for several years at Bradley Arant in Birmingham, and continues to serve as a staff attorney for Judge David Proctor on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Under the guidance of Nelson, the new and continuing L.L.R. instructors met and worked throughout the summer to revise and finalize the L.L.R. syllabus, prepare materials and plan this academic year. The law school is excited about the revised and reenergized L.L.R. program.

New Staff

In addition to the L.L.R. instructors, four great new staff members were added to the Cumberland team this summer, filling important vacancies. They are:

Rachel Stewart Martin '13**Assistant Director of Career Development**

Martin is a graduate of the University of South Alabama and a Cumberland alumna. In her role, she is responsible for counseling students, development programming and expanding job fairs.

Beth Chmura**Program Assistant, Career Development**

Chmura is a graduate of Auburn University. As the Career Development Office's program assistant, she is responsible for managing 12Twenty and internal CDO communications, and helping run on-campus interviews (OCIs).

Tona Hitson '96**Director of Student Services**

Hitson earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Georgia and is a Cumberland alumna. She previously worked as in-house counsel for AIG Baker Properties.

Chris Chisenberry**Administrative Assistant, Office of the Associate Dean and Student Services**

Chisenberry is a graduate of the University of Alabama. She has over a decade of experience as a legal secretary and paralegal and at a leading Birmingham law firm.



From left to right: Rachel Stewart Martin, Tona Hitson, Chris Chisenberry and Beth Chmura

Brewer's Legacy of Giving

Provides Others a Chance to Excel



During his three-year term as Alabama governor (1968-71), Albert P. Brewer championed educational and constitutional reform, the establishment of a state ethics commission, and recruiting new industry.

After joining Samford in 1987, Brewer continued his work, helping the university establish PARCA as the state's first independent, nonpartisan organization to provide information on government issues. He served as its first executive director and later as chairman until 2013, and as chairman emeritus until his death Jan. 2, 2017.

In addition to his work with PARCA, Brewer taught at Cumberland School of Law for more than two decades. The law school honored Brewer and his late wife, Martha, by naming the space in front of Robinson Hall Brewer Plaza in 2008.

Over the years, Brewer generously supported Samford and the law school with his giving—endowing several scholarships, providing donations to law school funds and including Samford in his estate.

In 1991, he endowed the Martha F. Brewer Scholarship for a Samford undergraduate in honor of his wife. In 2007, he endowed the Daniel Austin Brewer Professionalism Award for a law student

in honor of his father. In various gifts, he endowed the Albert P. and Martha F. Brewer Scholarship in the law school. The proceeds of his estate now provide additional resources for this scholarship fund. In addition, Brewer's daughter and son-in-law, Alison and Mark Calhoun, established a separate Albert P. Brewer Scholarship in the law school. And, in 2013, Brewer endowed the Albert P. Brewer Chair of Ethics and Professionalism in the law school. The proceeds of his estate provide additional resources for this endowment.

"Receiving the Brewer scholarship has lifted some of the burden of paying for law school off my shoulders," said second-year law student Jordan Doggett. "It was such an affirmation that Cumberland was where I was meant to be."

"With student loans from my two previous degrees, the Brewer scholarship has been immensely helpful," second-year law student Jennifer Townsend added. "Knowing that I had a scholarship helped ease my mind about making the decision to return to school."

To learn more about how to include Cumberland School of Law in your planned giving, contact Paula Kierce, director of development, at pkierce@samford.edu.

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CLASS NOTES

COLLECTED FEBRUARY THROUGH AUGUST 2019

1968

Robert "Squire" W. Gwin Jr. is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

1969

Jim Morgan, of High Point, North Carolina, received the Ella Fitzgerald Award as part of the Esther Awards given by the Welfare Reform Liaison Project in Guilford County.

1970

Honorable Charles Graddick was appointed by Alabama Governor Kay Ivey to be director of the Alabama Board of Pardons & Paroles, which was effective Sept. 1, 2019.

1971

James "Jimmy" Rane was named to the Top 50 over 50 list by Positive Maturity.

1974

William B. Lloyd Jr. is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Judge Julian Mann III was appointed by the ABA president elect Judy Perry Martinez to a one-year term on the Ethics and Professional Responsibility Advisory Committee.

Mark White received the William D. "Bill" Scruggs Jr. Award during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Honorable Jim Hill Jr. joined The Neutral Solution as a neutral in Birmingham, Alabama.

1976

Honorable Tom King Jr. is a life fellow of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Marion Walker is a life fellow of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Ronald Johnsey is the CEO of ThinkWhy in Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

1977

Susan Owens Hamilton was presented with the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who, as a leader in the law and transportation industry. Hamilton served CSX Transportation for many years before she retired from that company in 2012.

1978

David Chastain retired from Winston Winston Jenkins & Chastain LLC.

David Drabkin received a Wash100 Award from the chief executive officer of Executive Mosaic for his role in the realignment of the Department of Defense's acquisition process in 2018. This is a coveted award in government contracting. Drabkin is the chairman of the Section 809 Panel.

Sam Nicholson was reelected to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia. Nicholson is senior partner of Nicholson Revell LLP in Augusta, Georgia.

1979

Samuel Pennington received a Florida State Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award. He was one of 21 lawyers in Florida who received this award. Pennington's practice focuses largely on bankruptcy and he represents Florida's 5th Judicial Circuit.

Gary L. Smith was confirmed by the Alabama Senate as the new appointee to the University of North Alabama board of trustees.

William G. Colvin received the President's Award from the Chattanooga Bar Association as the person who has most helped the president in his/her year in office.

1980

F. Wilson Myers Sr. joined the Birmingham Volunteer Lawyer program as a staff attorney. His primary role is to assist veterans.

1981

Ernest Cory is a life fellow of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

D. Vincent Sullivan is a tasting room pouring associate and tour guide at the Barbourville Winery in Barbourville, Virginia.

David Silverstein named to the Top 50 over 50 list by Positive Maturity. As well, he founded the FiveStar Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Col. F. G. Delleney Jr. is a new member of The Citadel Board of Visitors. As well, Delleney remains a partner of Hamilton Delleney Grier & Cotton LLC in Chester, South Carolina.

1982

Douglas J. Centeno is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

1983

Joel W. Weatherford founded his firm J. Weatherford Law in Dothan, Alabama.

1984

W. Hill Sewell joined The Neutral Solution, a firm of mediators and arbitrators, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Allen Schreiber was named president of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators, for a two-year term. Schreiber is a co-founder of The Neutral Solution, an alternative dispute resolution firm in Birmingham, Alabama.

LaBella Alvis received a President's Award during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Mary Pons has joined The Neutral Solution, a group of mediators and arbitrators, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Carolyn Lam is general counsel at Kynect in Dallas, Texas.

1985

Dana Andrews is the 2019-20 president-elect of the USTA Florida's Board of Directors. Andrews resides in Tampa, Florida.

L. Chandler Vreeland received the bronze Roger Sherman medal for his service as chancellor of the John Collins Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in Marietta, Georgia.

T. Roe Frazer II was appointed to the Plaintiffs Executive Committee, In re Aqueous Film, Forming Foam Products Liability Litigation, MDL No. 2873 (D.S.C.). He also serves on the Indian Tribes Leadership Committee, In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL No. 2804 (N.D. Ohio).

David McAlister joined The Neutral Solution as a neutral in Birmingham, Alabama.

Thomas Neil Osborne received a 20-year service award as a magistrate in the 27th Judicial District of Virginia from the Supreme Court of Virginia, Office of the Executive Secretary, Magistrate System.

Chandler Vreeland is a master mason and was recently installed as a member of the Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem in Birmingham, Alabama. The Shrine is a nonprofit charitable institution founded in 1894 to help people all over the world.

1986

Jay Holloway is an attorney with Morgan & Morgan in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mark Yancey is the chief learning officer for the National Advocacy Center, a part of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dennis Michael Barrett recently authored three novels: *Equinox*, *Raven* and *Caliente*. The books are available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

1987

Eric J. John is the executive director of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia and is the longest-serving head of a judicial branch agency in the state.

C. Doug Dooley was elected to the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys Executive Council. Dooley is a member of Leitner Williams Dooley & Napolitan PLLC in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

1988

Melissa M. Calhoun was appointed by superior court judges in Georgia as a judge of the new Ogeechee Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court. She began her services July 1, 2019.

Gregory D. Smith was a featured speaker at the XXXII Oklahoma Sovereignty Symposium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Sovereignty Symposium, held in June 2019, is an annual event and considered the premier academic gathering on Federal Indian Law in the United States.

Justice Smith, a Native American tribal appellate justice, presented on judicial ethics and published two articles in a special law review associated with the Sovereignty Symposium.

1989

Dee Miles was selected to serve for a second term on the Product Liability editorial advisory board for the legal news publication *Law360*. He will serve with nine other attorneys throughout the U.S. for the 2019 publishing year.

1990

Sharon Stuart is president and claims counsel of Attorneys Insurance Mutual of the South Inc. As well, Stuart remains a founding and practicing partner of Christian & Small in Birmingham, Alabama.

1991

Nancy Bird is an associate at Durward & Durward in Birmingham, Alabama.

Todd Carlisle is a member of Leadership Birmingham's Class of 2019-20.

Nancy Khalaf Bird joined Durward & Durward PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

1992

Honorable George M. Zoghby was installed as a district court judge for Alabama's 13th District in Mobile, Alabama.

Martha Reeves Cook was appointed to the Jefferson County District Court in Alabama's 10th Judicial Circuit. She will run for election in 2020.

David Hall is the regional managing partner of Wilson Elser in Birmingham, Alabama.

1993

T. Julian (Jay) Skinner IV joined The Neutral Solution, a mediation and arbitration community, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Michael M. Jordan was appointed by Gov. Henry McMaster to be a master of equity for Sumter County, South Carolina. He will maintain a part-time law practice with Schwartz McLeod & Jordan.

Gina Coggin was elected to be the first vice president of the Alabama Association for Justice.

Ben Baker was elected to be treasurer of the Alabama Association for Justice.

B. Scott Shipman received a Retiring Commissioner Award during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Senator Cam Ward was the recipient of a Legislative Award during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting, for his work on SB163: Collateral Consequences.

1994

Col. Frank Coppersmith was the keynote speaker for the Air Force Special Operations Command legal conference; he served as a guest speaker at the Nebraska School of Law Hendrickson Conference where he focused on tech and sustainability; and he recently spoke on the subject of artificial intelligence (AI) to the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Material Command. Coppersmith teaches two electives on AI at the Annual Survey of the Law.

J. Flynn Mozingo was selected to join the 2018 Class of Fellows of the Alabama Law Foundation.

Bob Methvin is president-elect of the Alabama State Bar.

Rusha C. Smith is the executive director of the Freshwater Land Trust in Birmingham, Alabama.

J. Flynn Mozingo received a Retiring Commissioner Award during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

W. Todd Harvey was named to the Top 50 over 50 list by Positive Maturity.

1995

Mary Ann Etzler received the 2019 Jake Stone Award for distinguished service award from the Orange County (Florida) Legal Aid Society. She provided over 1,000 hours in pro bono services.

Anne Lamkin Durward was elected to serve a two-year term on the Board of Governors for the International Academy of Family Lawyers.

J. Brian Slaughter joined Kalfus & Nachman PC in Norfolk, Virginia. He represents the injured in workers' compensation proceedings.

Michael Jay Rune II is a shareholder at Carlton Fields in Miami, Florida.

Michael Velezis is a member of Leadership Birmingham's Class of 2019-20.

1996

William Lawrence is of counsel at Burr Forman in Birmingham, Alabama.

1997

David Longley was elected assistant vice president of GEICO Insurance Co. and will oversee staff counsel operations in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Louisiana (excluding New Orleans).

Christopher Deering founded, and is principal of, Vulcan Employment Law Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

Marc James Ayers has been certified in appellate practice by the Florida Bar's Board of Legal Specialization and Education. Ayers practices with Bradley Arant in Birmingham, Alabama.

Judge Elisabeth A. French, 10th Judicial Circuit Court, Jefferson County, Alabama, received the Judicial Award of Merit during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Jana Russell Garner received a President's Award during the 2019 Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Lori H. Patterson, a shareholder of Baker Donelson in the firm's Memphis office, has been named chair of the Financial Services Litigation & Compliance Group.

1998

Reginald (Reggie) Lavon Snyder is a partner of Taylor English in Atlanta, Georgia.

Colonel Carl "Trey" Dowdey III was selected to take over command of the U.S. Army Reserve's 10th Legal Operations Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve Legal Command, in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He is one of 23 Legal Operations Detachment commanders nationwide.

Jacob "Jay" Brown was elected chair of the Business Law Section of the Florida State Bar. Brown currently serves as deputy chair of Akerman LLP's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice Group in Jacksonville, Florida.

1999

J. Mark Debro is president of the Huntsville-Madison County Bar Association. He is the first African American president of this bar association. Debro is a partner of Grace Matthews & Debro LLC in Huntsville, Alabama.

Charlanna Skaggs is general counsel for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

2000

Christina A. Graham is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Virginia E. Miller is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

2001

Mike Fish recently participated in a panel discussion, titled "Subrogation: What It Is and How It Works" at the ABA Workers' Compensation Midwinter Seminar and Conference in Coral Gables, Florida.

Gerald Webb was elected by the Hamilton County Commission to be a general sessions judge in Hamilton County, Tennessee.

O. Benton Curtis III joined the litigation practice group of McDermott Will & Emery in Miami, Florida.

Erik Heninger was elected to be second vice president of the Alabama Association for Justice.

Ronald McBay provides full-time trial defense support with Army National Guard. McBay also has a private practice in Mobile, Alabama.

Champ Crocker was appointed to the editorial board of the *Alabama Lawyer* magazine.

CLASS NOTES

COLLECTED FEBRUARY THROUGH AUGUST 2019

2002

Julie Hatcher Ralph is assistant district attorney for the 20th Judicial District Court in East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. She also maintains a civil litigation practice with McGlynn Glisson & Mouton in Baton Rouge.

Kimberly Dougherty is a staff attorney for the Domestic Violence Advocate Office of the Memphis Area Legal Services in Tennessee.

2003

J. Michael Turner is lead litigator at Cordell & Cordell in Greenville, South Carolina.

Tracey Dotson McDonald is a partner of Porterfield Harper Mills Motlow & Ireland PA in Birmingham, Alabama.

M. Jeremy Dotson is a shareholder of Porterfield, Harper Mills Motlow & Ireland PA in Birmingham, Alabama.

J. Todd Miner opened Law Office of J. Todd Miner LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

2004

John M. Florence Jr. is vice president of human resources, general counsel and secretary of Sonoco in Hartsville, South Carolina.

Kathleen M. Allen Wiederman is an attorney adviser for the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties at the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Richard G. Pearce formed a new law firm, Litchford Pearce & Associates PLLC, with offices in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Colorado Springs, Colorado. Additionally, he continues to own and operate Prosper Financial Management LLC, a registered investment advisory firm that provides financial planning and investment management services.

Dow Davidson is senior corporate counsel at BBVA in Birmingham, Alabama.

David Rohwedder is of counsel at Litner + Deganian in Atlanta, Georgia.

2005

Rebekah Graham is secretary of the Huntsville Madison County Bar Association.

Matthew C. Jordan is a mediator with JordanADR. As well, he owns The Law Office of Matthew C. Jordan in Atlanta, Georgia.

Brett Turnbull is a partner with Turnbull Cain & Holcomb, with offices in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta, Georgia. He primarily works from the Birmingham office.

Holly Sawyer opened The Law Office of Holly L. Sawyer in Dothan, Alabama.

LeBreon Simone Washington is the director of people & culture at Lawyers for Children, a not-for-profit law firm that provides holistic advocacy for youth in the New York foster care system.

2006

Daniel Harrell is chair of the general litigation department at Clark Partington in Pensacola, Florida. He serves on the firm's executive committee. As well, he was appointed by Florida Governor DeSantis to serve on the First Circuit Judicial nomination commission. His term will end July 1, 2022.

Major Brent Jones is an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee. Jones finished 11 years of active service in the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps and continues his service in a reserve capacity.

Sara Williams is a Yellowhammer News Woman of Impact for 2019.

James (Jim) Exum III joined Chambliss Bahner & Stophal PC in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

2007

Philip Swartzfager works in federal government relations at PayPal in Washington, D.C.

Maj. R. Matt Thompson won the Eighth Air Force Outstanding Young Judge Advocate award for 2018. Thompson serves as the deputy staff judge advocate assigned to the 509th Bomb Wing Legal Office at Whiteman Air Force Base.

Randall Woodfin, mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, was a commencement speaker for Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU). As well, SNHU awarded him with an honorary degree. He also was the keynote speaker for Tuskegee University's summer commencement ceremony.

Jamie Durrett was elected to the Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors. Durrett practices at Batson Nolan in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Ayanna Abrams is an attorney with Disability Advocates of NWNC in Greensboro/Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

2008

LaMonica Orr Love is president of the American Association of Women Attorneys in Houston, Texas.

Sigfredo "Freddy" Rubio is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Amber Whillock is a member of the 2019 Class of Fellows of the Birmingham Bar Foundation.

Robyn Owens Lee is an assistant attorney general for the Tennessee Office of the Attorney General in Nashville, Tennessee.

Will Shurtz is commercial counsel at Guidewire Software in Birmingham, Alabama.

Luisa Kay Reyes authored a poem, "Freed Women," published in The Basil O'Flaherty, a literary arts website. She also authored a story titled "Of The Knights of the True Light" that was published in the 2019 *Havik, the Las Positas College Journal of Arts and Literature*. As well, her poem, "Flows Out Like a Stream", inspired by the aria "I Dreamt I Dwelt In Marble Halls" from the opera "The Bohemian Girl," is featured in the new *Startled by Joy* anthology. Her essay, "Good Neighbors", was published in *The Sprout Club Journal*.

Patrick Bobo is vice president and deputy general counsel for Coyote Logistics in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Justin Kelly is senior corporate counsel at GVW Group in Birmingham, Alabama.

David C. Sawyer is a partner of Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

2009

Megan Stephens is corporate legal counsel for BBVA Compass Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

John S. Baker IV is counsel at Burr & Forman in Jacksonville, Florida.

Ruby Jackson is counsel at Southern Power in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mark Robinson graduated from Judge Advocate General's Legal Center & School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

David T. Rohwedder is of counsel at Litner + Deganian PC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jennifer Johnson is director of legal processing at Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

2010

Andrew Brashier is the senior legislative strategist at Prison Fellowship Ministries and the vicar at Anglican Church of the Good Shepherd in Pelham, Alabama.

Wesley Fain is senior associate general counsel at Surgical Care Affiliates in Birmingham, Alabama.

Whitney Henry Kimerling is a shareholder of Lewis Thomason in Nashville, Tennessee. She was selected to be a member of the 2019 Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class.

Sarah Pritchard joins Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP in Tampa, Florida.

Lauren Hartin and **Jay Hartin** founded Star Youth United in Prattville, Alabama. The purpose of this organization is to combat child trafficking in the river region and the state of Alabama.

Melissa Humber Yan is an associate at Dominick Feld Hyde in Birmingham, Alabama.

K. Coe Heard is employment counsel for HCA Healthcare in Nashville, Tennessee.

Ashley Peinhardt is participating in the 2019-20 Class of Leadership Birmingham.

Andrew Herring is an associate at Cory Watson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Eddie Koen is the president and CEO of Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio which was effective Sept. 30, 2019.

2011

Matt Couch is a partner of Cabaniss Johnston Gardner Dumas & O'Neal in Birmingham, Alabama.

Christopher Daniel is a partner of Sheffield & Lentine in Birmingham, Alabama.

Larry Fantroy is an associate at Starnes Davis Florie in Birmingham, Alabama.

Meredith McIver is an associate at Osborne Helman Knebel & Scott LLP in Austin, Texas.

Kristen Sims is the global compliance manager at Hexagon in Huntsville, Alabama.

Alex Maggioni is an assistant public defender for the Office of Public Defender in the Augusta Judicial Circuit in Augusta, Georgia.

Grant Howard is a member of the Leadership Shelby County Class of 2020.

2012

J. Winston Busby, an attorney at Sirote & Permutt PC, has co-authored the sixth edition of *J.K. Lasser's New Rules for Estate, Retirement, and Tax Planning*.

Leanne Jackson is an associate at Shane A. Taylor & Associates in Mobile, Alabama.

Lauren Weber is an associate at Stephen L. Klimjack LLC in Mobile, Alabama.

Whitney Haley is vice president and general counsel at FCA Venture Partners in Nashville, Tennessee.

Laura Guarino Cunliffe is the associate director for education, income maintenance, and labor in the Office of Management and Budget, a part of the Executive Office of the President of the United States.

Kenneth Boyles Jr. is an attorney at Ely & Isenberg in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jon Beling is associate general counsel with Clayton Homes in Maryville, Tennessee.

Faye Suggs was selected as Legal Services Alabama's July 2019 Advocate of the Month.

2013

M. Bert Bray IV is corporate counsel at Progress Rail Services Corporation/Caterpillar Inc. in Albertville, Alabama.

Laura Lundy Wheale was appointed by Superior Court Chief Judge Lim to become chief judge for the Tallapoosa Circuit Juvenile court in Polk County, Georgia.

Olivia Woodard is commercial counsel at LinkedIn in Sunnyvale, California.

Ellen Shelley was appointed by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to be a district court judge for District 29A, serving McDowell and Rutherford Counties.

Rory McKean is general counsel and vice president of risk management at Junction Industries LLC in Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas.

Jaclyn Gilbert is an associate at Weissman PC in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lance Parmer is an associate at Lehr Middlebrooks Vreeland & Thompson PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ashley Heidger Meskill is an assistant federal defender for the District of Connecticut in Hartford, Connecticut.

Laura Blount is a senior law clerk with the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in Memphis, Tennessee.

Kerra Killingsworth Hicks is an associate at Jones Walker in Atlanta, Georgia.

2014

Andrew Hill is a director II for LAD Product Development at Protective Life in Birmingham, Alabama.

Charlie Pond is a vice president of strategic execution and business transformation for Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

Taylor Martin is an associate at Carlock Copeland & Stair LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jonathan Wohlwend is an associate at Bradley Arant in Birmingham, Alabama.

Trey Frazer is a partner of Frazer PLC in Nashville, Tennessee.

W. Kayla Schoen Graben is an associate at Massey Stotser Nichols in Trussville, Alabama.

Clayton Cain is managing partner of Turnbull Cain & Holcomb, with offices in Birmingham and Atlanta. Cain works from the Atlanta-area office.

John Schultz is an associate with Gray Rust St. Amand Moffett & Brieske LLP in Atlanta, Georgia.

Garrett C. Miller is a partner of Miller Christie & Kinney PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Johnathan D. Wohlwend joined Bradley Arant in Birmingham, Alabama.

2015

F. Elizabeth Boyd is a senior claims adviser at Kemmons Wilson Insurance Group in Memphis, Tennessee.

Allen Sorrell is an associate with The Friedman Law Firm PC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Elizabeth Dalziel is an associate at Reese & Associates in Marietta, Georgia.

Jessica Brookshire Spade is an associate at Baker Donelson in Birmingham, Alabama.

Thomas Edington is privacy counsel at Change Healthcare in Atlanta, Georgia.

2016

Jesse Barnhill is a licensed realtor with Brik Realty in Birmingham, Alabama.

Rae Bolton is lead attorney at Legal Services Alabama in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kate Furek is an assistant district attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit in Hale County, Alabama.

Cody Walker is insurance and risk management counsel at Brasfield & Gorrie in Birmingham, Alabama.

J. Stuart Caffee is an associate at Naderpour & Associates PA in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dhvanil Zaveri is an associate at Allstate Insurance Company in Birmingham, Alabama.

Malory O'Steen is a senior conflicts analyst at Bass Berry & Sims in Nashville, Tennessee.

T. Alan Moore is a senior privacy analyst with Deloitte's Government and Public Services practice in Rosslyn, Virginia.

Dylan Angeline is an associate with Scott Sullivan Streetman & Fox in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hilaire Armstrong is an Alabama assistance bankruptcy project coordinator for South Alabama Volunteer Lawyer Program in Montgomery, Alabama.

Alan Moore was appointed by State Bar of Georgia President Darrell Sutton to serve on the 2019-20 Member Benefits Committee.

Anna (Schmarkey) Cobb is trust administrator at Regions Bank in Birmingham, Alabama.

Julie Kilgore is a legal specialist at Change Healthcare in Tennessee.

2017

A.J. Craig is now a company commander with the Florida Army National Guard, HHC 753rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 53rd IBCT in Tallahassee, Florida.

Aaron Pannell is an associate at Grant Konvalinka & Harrison in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Lynn Pulido is an associate at Gaines Gault Hendrix PC in Vestavia, Alabama.

Megan Seaton is an associate at Wettermark & Keith in Birmingham, Alabama.

CLASS NOTES

COLLECTED FEBRUARY THROUGH AUGUST 2019

Travis Thomas is an assistant district attorney in the Non-Complex Trial Division at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Georgia. He is the vice president of membership for the Greater Atlanta Black Prosecutors Association.

Scott Woodard earned an LL.M. in information technology and intellectual property law with high merit recognition. He also wrote and will be published in Vanderbilt University's *Journal of Entertainment and Technology Law* entitled, "Who Owns a Joke? Copyright Law and Stand-Up Comedy" (July 2019, Volume 21, Issue 4). As well, he is a federal judicial clerk for the Honorable Jeffrey U. Beaverstock, U.S. District Judge, Southern District of Alabama in Mobile, Alabama.

Kayla Currie is an attorney adviser for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

Kate Furek is an attorney practicing with Browne House Law Group in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Rebecca Guidry is an associate at Liskow & Lewis in Lafayette, Louisiana.

Sara Hockenberry is an associate at Melissa F. Brown LLC in Charleston, South Carolina.

Kaylie Eichholt is a judicial law clerk for Honorable Brendette Brown Green in the 10th Judicial Circuit Court in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Kaylie Eichholt Becker is an associate for the Law Office of Sandy Eubank Gregory LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Patrick Perry is an associate at Sirote & Permutt in Birmingham, Alabama.

Robert Campbell is a litigation specialist at Kemper in Birmingham, Alabama.

Steven Boydston is a contracts attorney at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

David Manush is an associate at Kelly & Walker in Denver, Colorado.

Riley Murphy is an associate at Samford & Denson in Opelika, Alabama.

2018

Steven Cole is an associate at Mann & Potter in Birmingham, Alabama.

Travis Johns is an associate at Enzor & Maniscalco in Birmingham, Alabama.

Matt Pettit is an associate at Frazer Law PLC in Nashville, Tennessee.

Haynes Russell is a judicial law clerk in the Tennessee State Court of Appeals.

Ben Warren is an associate with Greene & Phillips in Mobile, Alabama.

Nicole Watson is a grants and contracts officer at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Leah Frances Johnson is an associate at Mezrano Law Firm in Birmingham, Alabama.

Steven Shunnarah is an associate at Alexander Shunnarah Personal Injury Lawyers in Birmingham, Alabama.

Christian Flowers is an attorney at Gatehouse Law.

Holly Howell Brasher is an associate at King Simmons Ford & Spree in Birmingham, Alabama.

Connor Theune is an associate at Lee Livingston Lee Nichols & Barron PC in Dothan, Alabama.

Taylor Akers Pruett is director of The Neutral Solution in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kellianne Campbell is an associate at Wade Palmer & Shoemaker PA in Pensacola, Florida.

Ryan M. Hawks received a Master of Laws in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center and is an associate at Sirote & Permutt in Birmingham, Alabama.

Madeline Pendley Cannon is vice president of Alabama Home Mortgage Loans Inc.

Wesley Walker is an associate with Wilson Elser in Houston, Texas.

2019

Nelson Johnson is an associate at Brown & Johnson in Columbus, Georgia.

Seth Roden is an LL.M. student at George Washington School of Law in Arlington, Virginia.

Morgan Hoggle is an associate at Prim & Mendheim in Dothan, Alabama.

Chris Simmons is a legislative correspondent at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Kameron Buckner is an associate at Wiggins Childs Pantazis Fisher & Goldfarb LLC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Emily Hopper is a judicial law clerk with the Honorable Emily Marks, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court, Middle Dist. of Alabama.

Lisa Cagle is an associate at Gunderson Palmer Nelson Ashmore LLP in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Callie Brister is an associate at Taunton, Snyder and Parish in Houston, Texas.

Nathan Hall joined Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP in Birmingham, Alabama.

Ty Smith is an associate at Wilmer & Lee in its Arab, Alabama, office.

Haleigh Chastain is an associate at Bernstein Stair & McAdams in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Gage Smyth is an associate at Carr Allison in Birmingham, Alabama.

Brenton Thompson is a judicial clerk for the Honorable Madeline H. Haikala, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

Births

Brian Spellen '09 and his wife, Simone, announced the birth of their son, Asher, on Jan. 31, 2019.

Jonathan Hooks '03 and his wife, Holly, announced the birth of their daughter, Camille Elizabeth, on Jan. 24, 2019.

Sarah Outlaw McLaghlín '13 and Rane McLaughlin welcomed their son, Ray Harvey McLaughlin III, on Feb. 28, 2019.

Daniel Lopez Rubio '16 and his wife, Rosalie Alfano Lopez, announced the birth of their son, Daniel Lopez Alfano, on March 19, 2019.

Kayla Shoen Graben '14 and her husband, Clint, announced the birth of their son, James Price Graben, on April 1, 2019.

Ginny Willcox Leavens '11 and her husband, Joe, announced the birth of their son, Ladd Trimble Leavens, on April 2, 2019.

S. Cody Colson '11 and her husband, Mark, announced the birth of their daughter, Liv Dobbins Colson, on Jan. 18, 2019.

Emily Brown Cotney '06, and her husband Chris, announced the birth of their daughter, Larkin Coker Cotney, on April 8, 2019.

Andrea Atwell MacKeen '10 and her husband, Blake, announced the birth of their daughter, Palmer Rose MacKeen, on April 22, 2019.

Mary McDaniel Sheets '15 and her husband, Darryl, welcomed a baby girl, Juliette Marie, on Oct. 14, 2018.

Sara '13 and **John Naramore '13** welcomed a baby boy, Wesley, on May 2, 2019.

Ruby Villalobos Adams '18 and Irving Adams, announced the birth of their son, Jonah James Adams, on May 14, 2019.

Capt. Brittany Tedford Byrd '13 and Tyler Byrd announced the birth of their son, Noah Brooks, on May 30, 2019.

Rachel Winford Eidson '10 and Taylor Eidson announced the birth of their daughter, Lily Scarlett, on July 1, 2019.

Rebecca Hall Coleman '14 and Neal Coleman announced the birth of their son, Henry Neal, on July 28, 2019.

Nicole Henderson Watson '18 and Michael Watson announced the birth of their son, Callum Robert, on June 5, 2019.

Shannon Hardin Dye '10 and **Matthew Dye '10** announced the birth of their daughter, Cecilia June, born on June 4, 2019.

Clayton Cain '15 and Jessica Henderson, announced the birth of their son, Ridge Cain, on June 16, 2019.

Heather Searcy Fly '11 and Michael Fly announced the birth of their son, Jack Archer, on June 19, 2019.

Mark Robinson '00 and Moriah Robinson welcomed their daughter, Joy Elisabeth Robinson, on Aug. 6, 2019.

Courtney Brown Dubberly '15 and Inman Dubberly welcomed their son, Smith Joseph Dubberly, on Aug. 7, 2019.

Mary Margaret Bielby Niezgoda '15 and Michael Niezgoda announced the birth of their son, Michael John (Trey) Niezgoda III, on Aug. 9, 2019.

Brittney Blount Claud '13 and **T.J. Claud '13** welcomed the birth of their daughter, Ella Jan, on Aug. 14, 2019.

Tripp Watson '10 and **Kristen Peters Watson '11** announced the birth of their son, Robert Joseph Watson, on Aug. 12, 2019.

David Hayes '10 and Elizabeth Hayes announced the birth of their daughter, Frances Amelia, on Aug. 22, 2019.

Alison Dennis '15 and **Garrett Dennis '15** announced the birth of their son, Arthur Samuel, on Sept. 30, 2019.

Marriages

Brandon Hays '11 married Andrea Young on Feb. 16, 2019.

Joey Gomez '16 married Natalie Marques on March 23, 2019.

Olivia Woodard '13 married Marc Giuffrida on May 22, 2019. The couple resides in California.

Drew Haskins '12 married Haylie Moss on April 5, 2019. The couple resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Bianca Svensson '17 married Matt Meador on April 27, 2019. The couple resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Timothy Tippin '03 married Audrey Phipps Charlson on April 27, 2019. The couple resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

Jessica Thomas '10 married Curtis Starks on May 4, 2019.

William "Bill" McCorquodale II '12 married Heather Gates, on April 27, 2019. The couple resides in Jackson, Alabama.

Kaylie Eichholt '17 married Garrett Becker on June 1, 2019. The couple resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Amanda Butterworth Wineman '18 married Zac Baldwin on June 30, 2019. The couple resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Xan Ingram '17 married Jonathan Flowers on June 30, 2019. The couple resides in Trussville, Alabama.

In Memoriam

Michael Alan Anderson '85, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, passed away on Jan. 22, 2019.

Anthony David "Butch" Berry '87, of Jacksonville, Florida, passed away on Jan. 31, 2019.

Honorable Ronald Goodbread '79, of Leesburg, Virginia, passed away on Feb. 15, 2019.

Albert Guemmer '67, of Tampa, Florida, passed away on March 7, 2019.

Hugh Leland Harrelson '71, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, passed away on Feb. 21, 2019.

Steven F. Owens '08, of Knoxville, Tennessee, passed away on Feb. 2, 2019.

Andre Keith Sanders '91, of Panama City, Florida, and Atlanta, Georgia, passed away on Feb. 16, 2019.

Louis Lee Sims '71, of Dadeville, Alabama, passed away on March 20, 2019.

Arthur Grey Till Jr. '73, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away on Feb. 19, 2019.

Nelson Burnett passed away on Dec. 22, 2018. He obtained his law degree in the 1940s when the law school was located in Lebanon, Tennessee. Burnett was a former Alabama state senator (35th District) and lived in Mobile, Alabama, before his death.

Morris Joseph Princiotta Jr. '79, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away on April 20, 2019.

William J. Varese '76, of Stratford, Connecticut, passed away on April 28, 2019.

John Nevitt Randolph '68, of Shelby County, Alabama, passed away on March 31, 2019.

Charles Edwin Shaver Jr. '67, of Huntsville, Alabama, passed away on May 6, 2019.

John William Donahoo Jr. '66, of Jacksonville, Florida, passed away on May 28, 2019.

Norma Genell Lee '95, of Montgomery and Hartsell, Alabama, passed away on May 25, 2019.

Joseph Andrew Rehyansky Jr. '72, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, passed away on June 21, 2019.

Melinda E. Taylor Carter '84, of Durango, Colorado, passed away on June 30, 2019.

Honorable Tony M. Jones '83, of Rock Hill, South Carolina, passed away on July 18, 2019.

Stephen C. Bullock '82, of McAlpin, Florida, passed away on July 17, 2019.

David Scott Rieth '91, of Sarasota, Florida, passed away on June 26, 2019.

Elizabeth Cvetetic '78, of Hoover, Alabama, passed away on July 7, 2019.

Robert J. Randolph, Jr. '69, of Stuart, Florida, passed away on April 27, 2019.

Robert Henry "Bobby" Creel '79, of Bluff Park, Alabama, passed away on July 29, 2019.

Christopher Brewer '74, of Raleigh, North Carolina, passed away on Aug. 3, 2019.

John William Rhyne Jr. '88, of La Fayette, Georgia, passed away on Aug. 23, 2019.

Mark B. Reed '76, of Daphne, Alabama, passed away on Sept. 30, 2019.



Cumberland School of Law will host the National Trial Competition, Region 8, on Feb. 7-9, 2020.

The National Trial Competition (NTC), cosponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL), exposes law students to trial practice and serves as an important component of their legal education. Approximately 350 teams from law schools across the nation will compete in one of 15 regions.

We would be honored to have you serve as a judge/evaluator for one of the rounds of the competition in Region 8, which will be held at the Jefferson County Civil Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama. The event involves second- and third-year law students competing in a full mock trial litigating a fictional civil case. Judges/evaluators will receive a copy of the case file to review several weeks before the competition. The competition depends on the evaluation and comments of experienced litigators and judges. Your participation as an evaluator will be greatly appreciated and will help to ensure the program's continued success.

A regional competition of this magnitude will require over 200 judges/evaluators, so we need you! Likewise, if you know others within your firm or in the legal community who would like to participate, feel free to share this information. (This event will be submitted for approval to the Alabama State Bar for three hours of CLE credit per trial session.)

Contact Tracy Luke to register:

tnluke@samford.edu

205-726-2804

Please consider volunteering for one of the following rounds:

Preliminaries

Friday, February 7, 1-4 p.m.

Friday, February 7, 6-9 p.m.

Saturday, February 8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Quarterfinals

Saturday, February 8, 2-5 p.m.

Semifinals

Sunday, February 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Finals

Sunday, February 9, 2-5 p.m.

If you are available to help during one of these rounds, please register at samford.edu/go/ntc



Madison Cumby Receives *Inaugural Bishop Society Scholarship*

In 2017, Cumberland School of Law launched the Bishop Society, named for longtime professor and dean, Thomas Brad Bishop. Since its inception, the purpose of the Bishop Society has been to collectively gather contributions to provide scholarship support to deserving law students, provide public interest fellowships to deserving law students, upgrade technology and law school facilities, support the preparation and travel of Cumberland's trial and other teams, and support faculty research. This fall, the Bishop Society named its first scholarship recipient, Madison Cumby '18.

Cumby, a second-year law student from Birmingham, Alabama, is the junior editor for the *Cumberland Law Review*, a Caruthers Fellow, and has been on the dean's list twice. She is a member of the Moot Court Board and was the 2019 Saad Competition director; she placed in the top 16 in the Williams Trial Competition, was a semifinalist in the 2019 Donworth Moot Court Competition. Her involvement at Cumberland also includes serving as the treasurer for the Environmental Law Society and she is a member of the Trial Board and Women in Law.

"I have wanted to go to law school since I was in kindergarten

and I have never wavered from that decision," Cumby said. "I find the nature of law to be very fluid and ever-changing, which makes it a field that is never dull or stagnate. I enjoy being challenged every day and getting to have new experiences, both of which are satisfied by the legal field. When I enter the legal workforce, I want to be able to make a positive difference in the lives of my clients."

Cumby noted that she chose Cumberland because of its strong emphasis on trial advocacy and its reputation in the legal community. "I went to Samford for undergrad and I grew to love the school and decided to stay for another three years," she added.

"I was offered a full-ride scholarship to a law school in California and I was able to turn it down to attend Cumberland because of this scholarship," Cumby closed.

Thanks to Professor Bishop's generosity of spirit and dedication to Cumberland, and member contributions, the Bishop Society will continue to support aspiring legal students to achieve their dream of attending Cumberland School of Law.

To support the Bishop Society, contact Paula Kierce, director of development, at pkierce@samford.edu.

Cumberland Employment Rates **Trend Upward**

Cumberland had another strong year for employment. The class of 2018 had an overall employment rate of 90.7%. This rate is computed using known graduates employed 10 months after graduation and includes graduates working in any capacity, including those full time or part time with start dates deferred and not including those pursuing a full-time degree such as an LL.M. This rate marks a 2.9% increase from last year's overall employment rate of 87.8%. The employment rate for recent graduates in long-term, full-time, bar passage required, or J.D. advantage positions is 77.03%, which is a 14.72% increase from the class of 2017.

Cumberland's class of 2018 outpaced the overall national employment rate of 89.4% by 1.3%. The most significant factor for the improvement of the national entry level legal market continues to be the significantly smaller classes of law students graduating. According to the National Association of Law Placement, the entire class of 2018 among all ABA law schools was 27% smaller than the historically large class of 2013.

Cumberland graduates continue to reach remarkable professional achievements in a variety of fields. Nearly 63% of the class of 2018 began their careers in private practice. Other employment sectors include: public interest and government with 11.4%, business and industry with 17.5%, judicial clerkships with

5.3%, and 3.5% went into education. Cumberland alumni and firms managed by Cumberland alumni made a significant difference this year by providing employment opportunities for recent graduates to work at their firm or organization. Employment data for the class of 2019 is currently being collected and suggest a strong outlook. However, members of the class of 2019 continue to seek positions as bar results have trickled in from across the nation.

If you are seeking a new lawyer for your firm or organization, please reach out to the Career Development Office to be connected to a recent graduate. The continued support of alumni is a significant part of Cumberland's rising employment statistics.

Upcoming OCIs:

Spring OCI: February 3-March 27

Upcoming Job Fairs:

Alternative Careers Fair: January 16

Public Interest Career Fair: February 5

To register for on-campus interviewing, job fairs, or to post a job at Cumberland, please contact Beth Chmura at 205-726-2797 or echmura@samford.edu.

Alumni Events

It's time for *Class Reunion* planning!

In 2020, we will celebrate the following classes and assist in planning reunion gatherings:

2015, 2010, 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, 1970

Cumberland staff can assist in planning by offering your class list, mailing invitations and publicizing the details.

Contact Anne Marovich now if you'd like to help plan your class reunion: amarovic@samford.edu.

Some alumni are already making plans:

Class of 1975 45th Class Reunion
Save the Date:
Saturday, May 2, 2020

Look for more information online
or in your mailbox in January.

