



Samford University
Cumberland School of Law

The Dean's Weekly Newsletter

Henry C. Strickland III

Dean & Ethel P. Malugen Professor of Law

Week of February 5, 2018

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A Note from the Dean



Retired Cumberland Professor Belle Howe Stoddard Died Jan. 30 at Her Home in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. She was 74.

► Professor Stoddard was a Cumberland alumna, one of only 11 women in her first-year class of 1975, and a founding member of the American Journal of Trial Advocacy. After she graduated in 1978, she entered private practice in Birmingham. She subsequently served as staff attorney for Alabama Supreme Court Justices Janie Shores and Thomas Woodall, and as a member of the Birmingham Board of Education.

► Professor Stoddard returned to Cumberland in 2001 to teach in the Lawyering and Legal Reasoning program. She later became the director of that program and served in that role until her retirement in 2017. Professor Stoddard's dedication to students and to LLR, her legendary story-telling, and her larger-than-life personality will forever be a part of Cumberland.

Plan Ahead

Actor, Poet and Educator Billie Jean Young will Present Her One-Woman Show, Fannie Lou Hamer: This Little Light, at Samford University Tuesday, Feb. 13. The show, part of Samford's 50th year commemoration of the integration of its student body, will be in Brock Recital Hall at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

► Young, artist-in-residence at Judson College in Marion, Alabama, has presented her show about civil rights icon Hamer more than 800 times on four continents. Hamer, the daughter of Mississippi sharecroppers, was a voting rights activist and community organizer primarily in Mississippi. She was instrumental in organizing Mississippi's Freedom Summer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and was vice-chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which she represented at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

► Young is also associate professor of fine and performing arts at Judson. The holder of a MacArthur Fellow "genius grant," she is a graduate of Judson and Samford's Cumberland School of Law, where she earned her law degree in 1979. Young also taught at Jackson State University and Mississippi State University, Meridian.



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Plan Ahead *(continued)*

THE CUMBERLAND SCHOOL OF LAW
BLACK LAW STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

THE 24TH ANNUAL
**THURGOOD MARSHALL
SYMPOSIUM**

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
THE HON. CHERI L. BEASLEY



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE,
NORTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT

FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 5:30PM

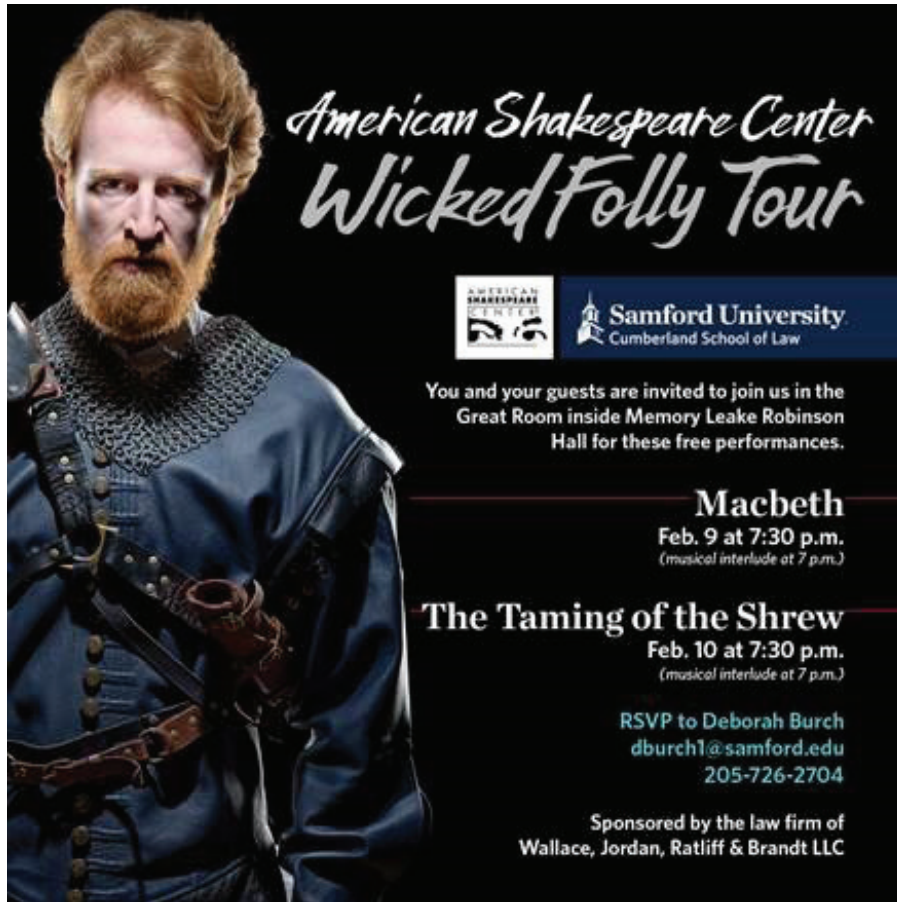
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Plan Ahead *(continued)*



*American Shakespeare Center
Wicked Folly Tour*

AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER

Samford University
Cumberland School of Law

You and your guests are invited to join us in the Great Room inside Memory Leake Robinson Hall for these free performances.

Macbeth
Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
(musical interlude at 7 p.m.)

The Taming of the Shrew
Feb. 10 at 7:30 p.m.
(musical interlude at 7 p.m.)

RSVP to Deborah Burch
dburch1@samford.edu
205-726-2704

Sponsored by the law firm of
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Announcements



Samford University
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KEEP CALM
and
STUDY ABROAD

Applications for Cumberland's Study-Aboard Summer Program in Cambridge, England are being accepted.

Applicants in good academic standing are taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Program dates are July 1-August 2, 2018.

Detailed information and application forms are available at
samford.edu/cumberlandlaw/study-abroad

Announcements *(continued)*

Time for NOMINATIONS

Samford University's Cumberland School of Law

AWARD DESCRIPTIONS... *Who would you like to see recognized?*

➤ **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS** recognition is bestowed upon a graduate who has given exceptional service to the community, profession and the Law School throughout their career. Nominees are recommended through local alumni organizations, the National Alumni Association and the staff of the alumni office. The honoree has frequently achieved recognition and accolades from other groups and may have been recognized for service through election or appointment. Each recipient brings honor to the Cumberland School of Law through their achievements.

➤ **YOUNG ALUMNUS** recognition is bestowed on one who has received his/her J.D. within the past 15 years. This graduate is one who has given exceptional service to the community, profession and the Law School.

➤ **VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** recognizes an alumnus who has demonstrated exceptional loyalty and commitment to Cumberland School of Law through volunteer service to Cumberland. 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 THE LAW SCHOOL** 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.

*Please send nominations and supporting reasons for such to Anne Marovich, Director of Alumni Relations: amarovic@samford.edu

Cumberland Christian Legal Society

Valentine's Day

Bake Sale

Wednesday February 14th

10am — 3pm

Located in Breezeway

 Samford University
Cumberland School of Law

Announcements *(continued)*

Trial Competition Teams Sweep Regionals, Head for Nationals Once Again

Trial competition teams swept the south regional portion of the National Trial Competition (NTC) the first weekend of February. Each team, comprised of all second-year law students, went undefeated throughout the tournament and each team will advance to the national finals in Austin, Texas in April.

Craig Shirley, Stephanie Gushlaw, Kameron Buckner and **J.B. Brown** defeated Barry University School of Law and Stetson University College of Law in the preliminary rounds, Faulkner University Jones School of Law in the semifinals and Mississippi College School of Law in the finals.

Andrew York, Jennifer Jayjohn, Callie Brister and **Denzell Moton** defeated Florida State School of Law and Faulkner University Jones School of Law in the preliminary round, Jones School of Law in the semifinal round, and clinched a victory over the University of Alabama School of Law in the finals.

In the final rounds, Cumberland won a trial as the plaintiff and the defense demonstrating the advocacy skills necessary to win on both sides of the same case.

“These wins are great accomplishments for our students,” said Dean Henry Strickland. “They reflect talent, deep understanding of law and its application, and hours and hours for preparation and practice.”



Pictured from left to right: Coach Matt Woodham '15, Andrew York (2L), Denzell Moton (2L), Callie Brister (2L), Craig Shirley (2L), Stephanie Gushlaw (2L), J.B. Brown (2L), Kameron Buckner (2L), Jennifer Jayjohn (2L), and Coach Judge Jim Roberts '94

Coached by alumni **Judge Jim Roberts '94, Sara Williams '06** and **Matthew Woodham '15**, this is Cumberland's eighth NTC regional win in ten years. These teams are the tenth and eleventh Cumberland teams to advance to NTC Nationals in the past ten years.

“Cumberland has a long-standing national reputation for educating and training outstanding trial advocates,” Dean Strickland added. “Our trial advocacy program is consistently ranked among the top five to ten programs in the country. The success of our students in competitions that simulate the use of the law in practical settings demonstrates that they both understand legal theory and have the ability to apply it to serve people and business.”

Faculty Notes



Judge Carroll will be in Huntsville on Friday participating as a panel member in a program on Veteran's Treatment Courts sponsored by the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama.



Professor Tracey Roberts has been invited to present her paper, *How Extensive Are Fossil Fuel Stranded Assets in the United States?* as part of a panel on *Environmental Law and Social Science* at Arizona State University's Fourth Annual Sustainability Conference of American Legal Educators in May.