

ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION

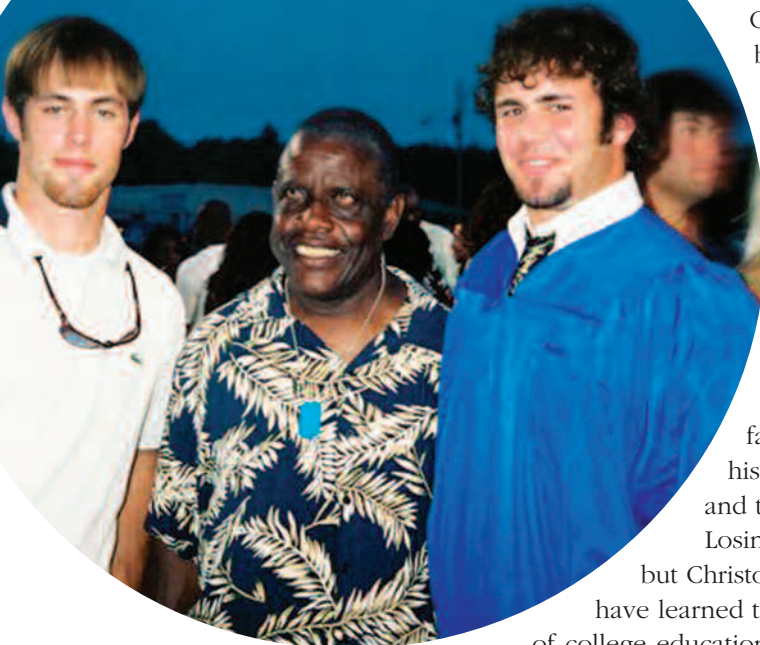
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MORE IMPORTANT THAN FOOTBALL

Christopher and Stephen Cupit both played football at Demopolis High School—and both were star players for the “Tigers.” The brothers were good enough that they received football scholarships. Considering the rising cost of higher education, and the fact that in Alabama football ranks among the most important activities in life, it might be considered strange for a young man to turn down a football scholarship. But Christopher Cupit did just that. Explaining his decision, Christopher says that football consumes a lot of time, and staying focused on his college studies is more important to him than football. Christopher’s younger brother, Stephen, was injured and could not play college football, and so he too turned down a football scholarship. Since the brothers remained determined to attend college, they needed to find money for tuition, fees, books, and living expenses.

Hard work, and a determination to reach a goal, are characteristics that shine in Christopher and Stephen—on and off the football field. When they were small children, their father died from a head injury he suffered from a fall while working at a construction site. Undaunted by their father’s fate, both brothers worked at construction jobs during the summers to help with family expenses. Their grandmother proudly declares, “the boys have been working hard since they were about fourteen.” In addition to working at construction, Stephen and Christopher help with the work on their grandparents’ farm.

CHRISTOPHER (L) & STEPHEN CUPIT (R) with the Demopolis Tigers’ biggest supporter, “CAN-GOOD.”



Christopher received his first Kids’ Chance scholarship when he began college in 2005, and also received scholarships in 2006 and 2007. Currently studying engineering at Auburn University, he says he became interested in wireless communication technology because of his uncle, who is an engineer. Christopher continues that, in addition to attending a full schedule of classes, he has applied to the co-op program for a job that will not only help him meet expenses, but can give him work experience for his future career. Stephen has just received his first Kids’ Chance scholarship to help him begin studying veterinary medicine at the University of West Alabama. Stephen has had a lot of experience with horses and cows as well as smaller animals from living on a farm. Stephen especially likes horses, and even broke and trained his own horse. Stephen and Christopher’s connection to their family and their background strongly influenced their educational goals.

Losing their father when they were small made their childhoods difficult, but Christopher and Stephen grew to be strong, determined young men who have learned to set goals and work hard to achieve them. Meeting the high costs of college education will also require hard work and determination, but Stephen and Christopher are ready for the challenge and appreciate their Kids’ Chance scholarships. Both brothers are committed to making their college careers even more successful than their high school football careers, even though meeting educational goals meant giving up football (even while attending Auburn!).

Kids' Chance Scholarships Bridge the Gulf

As the costs of higher education continue to rise, tuition and other expenses can seem like a huge gulf in the way of many young people's education goals. Kids' Chance scholarships help bridge that gulf. This year, the Alabama Law Foundation proudly announces that twenty-three Alabama students are recipients of Kids' Chance scholarships. Without Kids' Chance, these young people might not have the opportunity to continue their education and to reach their goals.

This year's awards totaled \$39,500. That means this successful program has awarded over \$379,500 to more than 100 students. Over 40 Kids' Chance recipients have graduated and are working on master degrees or employed in areas such as education, health care, and environmental science.



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Welcomes **New** **THE Alabama Law Foundation**
PRESIDENT

The Alabama Law Foundation proudly announces that **LARRY MORRIS** is the new president for 2007-2008. President Morris' main goal for his tenure as Alabama Law Foundation President is to use his expertise to promote his long-held belief that the greatest virtue of the legal system is that no one person or organization is larger than the law that protects all entities equally.



Morris has practiced law for over 30 years and is the founder and senior partner of Morris, Haynes & Hornsby. Morris' firm has two locations: Birmingham and Alexander City; Morris works in Alexander City. The firm is dedicated to meeting their clients' needs and to "treating the clients with respect for their rights as human beings—not merely case numbers discussed at monthly firm meetings."

Larry Morris, new president Alabama Law Foundation

Mr. Morris' commitment to providing access to justice is evident beyond his law firm's work. In 1974 he was elected to the Alabama State Legislature where he served 4 years. He has also served as president of the Alabama Bar Association, the Alabama Trail Lawyers Association, and the Young Lawyers of Alabama. In 1994, President Clinton appointed Morris to the President's Council on

International Jurisprudence—where he served for 6 years. Morris' impressive experience and personal energy combine to promise an exciting and eventful year for the Alabama Law Foundation.

Three New Board Members In addition to a new president, the Alabama Law Foundation proudly welcomes three new board members. **BENJAMEN T. ROWE** is a partner and the senior litigator in Cabaniss, Johnston's

Mobile office. Specializing in civil litigation, Rowe is listed in "Best Lawyers in America." He has served on the Executive Committee of the Mobile Bar Association, and in 2006 served as its president. Rowe has also been a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Alabama State Bar. **J. MARK WHITE** is the founder of White, Arnold, Andrews & Dowd P.C. White has served as trial counsel for civil and criminal practice. He is currently president-elect of the Alabama State Bar, and has served as president of the Birmingham Bar Association. White is listed in "Best Lawyers in America," and has received numerous honors including the Award of Merit from the Alabama State Bar.

CAMERON MCDONALD VOWELL is an environmental scientist who has joined the board of Alabama Law Foundation because she "is deeply dedicated to access to justice." Vowell has received a variety of impressive honors and appointments including the Alabama Academy of Honor, and the Conservationist of the Year (Cahaba River Society). She founded the Alabama Women's Initiative to promote the advancement of women in leadership in Alabama, and was listed among "Top Ten Birmingham Women." Three governors appointed her to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission, and in 2004, Vowell was appointed to the Alabama Ethics Commission.

CELEBRATING ITS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY IN 2007, THE CABANISS, JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP WAS ENDOWED IN 1987 BY THE LAW FIRM CABANISS, JOHNSTON, GARDNER, DUMAS & O'NEAL OF BIRMINGHAM AND MOBILE TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRM'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY. THE SCHOLARSHIP'S AIM IS TO RECOGNIZE ACADEMICALLY OUTSTANDING SECOND-YEAR LAW STUDENTS WHO ARE ALSO ALABAMA RESIDENTS.

SUPPORTING AND INSPIRING ALABAMA LAW STUDENTS:



THE WILLIAM VERBON BLACK Scholarship

Mrs. Delia Black endowed the scholarship to honor her late husband, William Verbon Black, his distinguished career and the high ethical standards he followed. In addition, the scholarship recognizes Alabama law students who show the promise of continuing Mr. Black's legacy of a stellar law career combined with strong character, and specifically those attending full time at the University of Alabama Law School. ● William Verbon Black, who died in 2000, was a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law. He went on to become a Fellow of the National Institute of Public Affairs and to graduate from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. His successful career in the federal service culminated with his appointment to the Senior Executive Service as Chief Counsel, U.S. Army Missile Command, one of the largest legal offices in Alabama. During his time as Chief Counsel, he received Presidential awards and recognition. ● The Alabama Law Foundation administers the William Verbon Black Scholarship, and the University of Alabama School of Law chooses the recipients. ● Mike Kuffner is the first recipient, and an example of a student who shows excellence in academics, service, and ethics. A rising third-year student, Mike finished his second year in the top ten percent of his class and received the "Best Paper Award in Legal Writing." His volunteer activities brought him a nomination for the Dean's Community Service Award and the Public Interest Student Board. Mike was elected Vice President for Financial Affairs, Treasurer, and Senator for University of Alabama Student Government Association.

Realizing the Plight of the Poor



Describing her experiences when she volunteered for "PROJECT SAFE," a shelter for abused women, Ashley Lott remembers her concern about the women's children. Ashley explains that, through no fault of their own, the children were taken from their homes, forced to play and sleep in a confined area with mothers who were literally in fear for their lives. During that experience, Ashley realized the plight of the poor, and made up her mind to make a difference.

Ashley plans to become a prosecutor for a U.S. Attorney's Office. She says that by working in the public sector, she can reduce violence in low-income areas. After her experience witnessing first-hand the harm violence causes, Ashley wants to remove criminals who cause harm—from low-income and as well as from wealthy neighborhoods.

Ashley Lott won the main award, a \$5000 CABANISS, JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP. Ashley graduated with a degree in English and Political Science from the University of Georgia. Ashley is from Citronelle, Alabama and she is currently studying at Yale Law School where she "takes pride in adding a little Southern diversity."

ASHLEY LOTT - WINNER CABANISS, JOHNSTON SCHOLARSHIP

IMPRESSIVE Runner-up Cabaniss, Johnston Scholarship Recipients

MICHELLE LEE BIRMINGHAM \$3,500 University of Michigan Law School | JESSICA THOMAS BIRMINGHAM \$1,500 Cumberland School of Law
DAVID POWERS TUSCALOOSA \$1,000 University of Alabama School of Law

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- I want to make a donation to the Alabama Law Foundation Fund.
- I want to make a donation to the Justice Janie L. Shores Scholarship.

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The ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION

Fall Newsletter



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FOOTBALL : A KIDS'
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RECIPIENT

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Alabama State Bar, strives to make access
to civil justice and education to all
Alabama citizens a reality.*

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