

Justice Hugo L. Black (1886-1971)

Hugo L. Black was born in Clay County, Alabama. After graduation from the Law School in 1906, he soon developed a reputation as a brilliant and progressive lawyer. Following military service during the First World War, Black resumed his legal and political careers. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1926, Black was a reformist senator and a leading New Dealer. In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated him to the U.S. Supreme Court. During his thirty-four years on the Court, he promoted the First Amendment, worked to make the Bill of Rights applicable to the States, and supported the landmark civil rights decisions of the Warren Court that changed the course of civil rights jurisprudence.

The Law School Library features a re-creation of Justice Black's Alexandria, Virginia study, complete with original furnishings and a one thousand-plus volume library. The collection is available to scholars.

The University of Alabama School of Law

- ◆ Graduates include Morris Dees, Co-Founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center; Judge Patrick Higginbotham; U.S. Senators Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby; and the late Judge Frank Johnson and U.S. Senator Howell Heflin.
- ◆ Twelve Alabama Law School professors have won the University's highest award for teaching, the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award.
- ◆ More than half of the Alabama Law Faculty have advanced degrees, including one-fifth with doctorates.
- ◆ Faculty experts are featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and the *New York Times* and appear frequently on PBS and NPR.
- ◆ Recent faculty scholarship includes monographs from Oxford, Cambridge, New York University, and McGraw Hill presses.
- ◆ International and taxation LL.M. programs.
- ◆ 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio.
- ◆ Student and faculty exchange programs in Switzerland and Australia.
- ◆ More than 30% increase in applications to the Law School since 2002.
- ◆ Ranked among the Top 20 public law schools by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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Box 870382
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

www.law.ua.edu

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Shaping the Next Generation

The Hugo Black Faculty Fellowship Program



A re-creation of Justice Hugo Black's Virginia study, in The University of Alabama School of Law's Bounds Law Library

The Hugo Black Faculty Fellowship Program

The Hugo Black Fellowship is named for 1906 Alabama law graduate Justice Hugo Black of the U.S. Supreme Court. The Fellowship provides promising new legal scholars who are former clerks to the U.S. Supreme Court with time and resources to formulate a research agenda. The Fellow teaches one class per term and shares with the Law School students and faculty his or her special vantage on the Supreme Court's place in our nation's legal, political, and economic life.

Hugo Black Faculty Fellows



Neil M. Richards was the inaugural Hugo Black Faculty Fellow in 1999-2000. He returned to teach at Alabama in Spring 2003. He graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in history from George Washington University in 1994. In 1997, he received an M.A. in legal history and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served as executive editor of the *Virginia Law Review*. Upon graduation, Richards clerked for Judge Paul V. Niemeyer, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, then for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. Between his visits to Alabama, Richards worked at the Washington, D.C. firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. He currently teaches at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.

Nathan A. Forrester served as a Hugo Black Faculty Fellow in 2002. Previously, he was Senior Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel for the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C. He earned a B.S., with honors, in electrical engineering in 1988 from the University of Florida and a J.D., with honors, in 1992 from the University of Chicago Law School where he served on the board of the *Chicago Law Review*. Forrester clerked for U.S. Circuit Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III of the Fourth Circuit, and then for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy from 1993-94. While at the Law School, Forrester also served as Solicitor General of the State of Alabama. Currently, Forrester works at the Birmingham office of Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP.



Heather Elliott served as a Hugo Black Faculty Fellow in 2002-03. She earned a B.A. degree in political science, *magna cum laude*, from Duke University in 1990 and an M.A. in political science in 1994 from Yale University. Elliott earned a J.D. with an Environmental Law Certificate in 2000 from the University of California School of Law (Boalt Hall) where she was on the editorial board of the *Ecology Law Quarterly*. Elliott clerked for the Honorable Merrick B. Garland, U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and then for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for the October 2001 term. Following her fellowship at Alabama, Elliott worked at the Washington, D.C. firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr. She currently teaches at Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America.

David Stras served as a Hugo Black Faculty Fellow during the 2003-04 academic year. Stras received a B.A., with highest distinction (1995), and an M.B.A. in finance and J.D. (1999) from the University of Kansas. While in law school, he served as editor-in-chief of the Criminal Procedure Edition of the *Kansas Law Review*. Upon graduation from law school, Stras clerked for Judge Melvin Brunetti of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge J. Michael Luttig of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Between his clerkships, he worked at the Washington, D.C. firm of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood. From 2002-03, he clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas. Stras currently teaches at the University of Minnesota School of Law.



John Neiman, Jr., served as a Hugo Black Faculty Fellow during the 2004-05 term. He earned his B.A. in economics, with highest honors and highest distinction, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997. He received his J.D., *magna cum laude*, in 2000 from Harvard Law School, where he served on the *Harvard Law Review* as Supreme Court Chair. Neiman clerked for Judge Paul V. Niemeyer of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 2000-01 and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court from 2001-02. He then worked at Bradley Arant Rose & White in Birmingham, Alabama. He currently teaches at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Pratik Shah served as a Hugo Black Faculty Fellow during the 2004-05 academic year. He earned his B.S.E., *summa cum laude*, from Princeton University in 1998 and his J.D. and Law & Technology Certificate in 2001 from the University of California at Berkeley (Boalt Hall), where he served as Senior Articles Editor of the *California Law Review*. Shah clerked for Judge William A. Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2001-02), then served as a litigation associate for Munger, Tolles & Olson in San Francisco. He clerked for Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court from 2003-04. Shah currently works in the Boston office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr.



Sonja West is serving as a Hugo Black Faculty Fellow during the Spring 2005 through Spring 2006 terms. She earned a B.A., with honors and distinction, in Journalism and Communication Studies from the University of Iowa in 1993. In 1998, she earned a J.D., with high honors, from the University of Chicago Law School, where she served as executive editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*. West clerked for Judge Dorothy W. Nelson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 1998-99. In 1999-2000, she clerked for Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court. West was a litigation associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher from 2000-02 and Davis Wright Tremaine from 2003-04, both in Los Angeles.

Albritton Lecture Series

U.S. Supreme Court Justices regularly visit the Law School as part of the Albritton Lecture Series. To date, Associate Justices Kennedy, Scalia, and O'Connor have lectured. Chief Justice William Rehnquist delivered the Albritton lecture in October 2003 and Ruth Bader Ginsburg in February 2004. Justice Clarence Thomas will lecture in Fall 2005 and Justice Stephen Breyer in 2006. The Albritton family of Andalusia, Alabama funds the series.