PRESS RELEASE
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INAUGURAL DOCUMENTING JUSTICE FILM SCREENING TO BE HELD APRIL 28

UA Center for Ethics, UA Law School to present student documentaries at Carver Theatre in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The UA Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility, the University of Alabama School of Law and the UA Department of Telecommunication & Film will host the inaugural Birmingham *Documenting Justice* film screening **April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Carver Theatre in downtown Birmingham.**

The screening will be the culmination of a year's work by law students who came together for a nationally unique, two-semester course. Focusing on stories of justice and injustice in Alabama, *Documenting Justice* students learn how to use film to document and analyze culture and social experience and to communicate about issues of concern to the state.

The screening, which is free and open to the public**, will consist of four short documentary films** exploring:

- The impact of Perry County's decision to store 3 million tons of spilled Tennessee coal ash;
- The controversial issue of judicial override through interviews with judges and attorneys on both sides of the issue;
- The challenges of parenting from prison and how one program attempts to ease that strain through storytelling;
- The access and safety problems faced by Collegeville, a small Birmingham neighborhood encircled by railroads.

The Law School section of *Documenting Justice*, which is open to second- and third-year law students pursuing a degree at The University of Alabama School of Law, was a new course during the 2009-2010 academic year. The original *Documenting Justice*, a course open to all UA undergraduate and graduate students, has been offered since 2006 and is a signature initiative of the UA Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility, which established university-wide programming supporting the development of projects that nurture social responsibility and reflective, thoughtful citizenship.

"Ethical citizenship requires a strong sense of empathy and compassion," said UA Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility Director Stephen Black. "Developing such qualities requires the ability to imagine what others see, feel and experience. A central focus of CESR, therefore, is the development of courses such as Documenting Justice in which students learn the personal stories of people outside their immediate sphere. Law students, based upon their training and

knowledge, are particularly well-equipped to uncover and analyze complicated issues of concern to the state of Alabama."

Learn more about Documenting Justice and other CESR initiatives by visiting cesr.ua.edu.

About the UA Center for Ethics & Social Responsibility
Created in 2005, CESR established university-wide programming supporting the development of projects that nurture social responsibility and reflective, thoughtful citizenship. The University of Alabama's strong commitment to civic engagement and its history of community-university partnerships also serve as a foundation for the Center. CESR staff develop – and assist faculty members in developing – service-learning courses that engage community organizations in partnerships designed to both enhance academic goals and apply scholarly learning to salient community issues. The service experiences are integrated into the students' academic curriculum, providing structured time for students to think, talk and write about what they did and observed.