Wow! Can you believe we are approaching the last year of the first decade of the (no longer) new century - and the (still) new millennium? Time is moving at warp speed, and everything is changing - except, it seems, Jere Beasley. The lawyer who’s been most distinguishable for a generation remains so today. His life has embodied only superlatives. His name is more recognizable in Alabama than Madonna (ok, maybe not “The” Madonna). He’s made more money off drugs than Noriega, and he’s caused gas (companies like Exxon) more trouble than Rolaids. He’s been Lt. Governor and even Governor (for 15 minutes) without any suggestion (that I can remember) of wrongdoing. He’s also funny, telling stories (some of them true) better than Will Rogers (who, in comparison, is dead). When named “Man of the Year”, he turned the March of Dimes into a March of Dollars. And, he’s a model husband deeply in love with (and afraid of) his delightful wife. He even has good children. He does, of course, have his (well earned) detractors. In some (Skip Tucker drawn) circles, he’s about as popular as Reverend Wright at a Barack Obama fund-raising party, or Katie Couric at a Palin pep rally. Karl Rove is also not much of a fan (or, says Beasley, a man). But through it all, Beasley, like Bill Ayers, remains unrepentant. At (almost) McCain’s age, Beasley has the vigor (but not the poor judgment) of John Edwards, and there’ll be no end to the torment he dispenses. Although Jere’s sometimes controversial, about one thing we can all agree. He richly deserves the shared honor of Montgomery’s most distinguishable lawyer of 2008.

When our second honoree clerked for Judge Mark Kennedy in the early 1980’s, he shared with a friend his dream of serving in the United States Congress. His dismissive friend responded: “A black man will be elected President before you’re elected to Congress”. And, he was right - - by 1 hour and 45 minutes. Oh, how the world has turned!! But, now we know the truth. Love will have its day. Just not this day - or this year. Happily, our honoree has a Bright future - - in part because he’s full of (Judeo-Christian) love. Like many of us, he’s also Love-Sick, courtesy of Jay, the Bird who’s cut more film than Alfred Hitchcock, and engaged in enough doctoring to be convicted of the unauthorized practice of medicine. But Bobby has turned the other cheek (in a northerly direction) and is headed for our nation’s Capitol. Yes, this year’s been big for our honoree. He started 2008 as Mayor (Rock) Bright brawling with Pike Road’s Mayor Stone over annexing dirt. He ended it starring in his favorite movie, “Mr. Bright goes to Washington”. In between, he fought consistently with the City Council, stubbornly with the DCCC who wanted a dirty (Bright) campaign, and courageously with his own sense of right and wrong. And, stubbornness may have made the (1766 vote) difference. Or, maybe it was his first Love, our (untiringly active) First Lady, who mattered most. Either way, Love has hardened the Brights to the ways of the (political) world, and together they’ll deal with Pelosi on the left and Boehner and Bachman on the right. And, all of us can be thankful. Yes we Can - - because Love will keep us together - - rooting for Bobby Bright, our Bar’s co-most distinguishable lawyer of 2008.

Other of our brethren and sisthren, of course, have also distinguished themselves this year - for better or worse - and both in and out of the courtroom. So, please sit back with a cold beer or a warm (spiked) cider and pay homage to those among us who have earned the dubious recognition of “Distinguishable Lawyer”.

1. “Transformers!” Award - - Mark Sabel, Larry Menefee, James Wilson, Chuck James, Judge Johnny Hardwick (And other lawyers who actively supported President-Elect Barack Obama for president.)

2. “Mavericky” Award - - Troy King and Will Sellers (And other lawyers who actively supported John McCain, like Troy, as their first choice for president or, like Will, as their fall back.)

3. “Eliot Spitzer” Award - - Jere Beasley (The AP bestowed on him the well-earned title of “America’s King of Tarts” - - uh, “Torts”.)

Beasley says, “money’s not everything, but it sure keeps the children close.”
4. “Take This Job and Shove It” Award - - Justice Harold See and Judges Pam Beschab and Bucky McMillan (Having enjoyed all of the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals they could stand, they did not seek re-election.)

5. “Most Likely to be Held in Contempt” Award - - Randy James (Randy ran a hard-hitting campaign against Judge Johnny Hardwick and is now hoping Judge Hardwick does not hit back.)

6. “The Untouchables” Award - - Judge Charles Price and Judge Gene Reese (Their years of distinguished service earned them re-election without opposition from either political party.)

7. “David and Goliath” Award - - Josh Segall (Josh played a remarkable David to Mike Rogers’ Goliath, but even Goliath has to win sometimes.)

8. “Don Rickles” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson (Said in her newspaper column that President Bush’s prized legislation “No Child Left Behind” was “self-inspired”).

9. “Most Eloquent” Award - - Joe Espy (Chair of University of Ala. Bd. of Trustees presented commencement address to Alabama Law School. Six graduates immediately changed professions.)

10. “Hero” Award - - Grif Sikes (He spoke out when certain former felons were being wrongfully denied the right to vote, and wrote an eloquent letter to probate judges, sheriffs and others trying to correct the injustice of it all.)

11. “Heroes” Award - - George Schraeder (Spurred the Alabama Bar to offer discount legal services to members of the military in Alabama who have provided admirable service to our country.)

12. “Hank Williams, Jr. Family Tradition” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr. (He’s a 3rd generation Judge - not sure what his great grandparents did.)

13. “Pride and Prejudice” Award - - Tom Methvin (Although maybe prejudiced, the Mtgy Bar takes great pride in Tom’s election as State Bar President-Elect.)

14. “Mit-Wit” Award - - Will Sellers (Will was the wit, i.e., the brains, behind Mitt Romney’s campaign in Alabama.)

15. “Sarah Palin You Betcha!” Award - - Chip Nix (The oldest son, and namesake, of this staunch Republican worked diligently and well for President-Elect Obama. There is yet hope for the Nix family.)

16. “Most Likely to Become U.S. Attorney” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson, James Anderson, and Clark Morris (You cannot take it to the Bank.)

17. “Most Unlikely to Be U.S. Attorney (much longer)” Award - - Leura Canary (After almost 8 years on the job, and despite rumors to the contrary, Leura is highly unlikely to be reappointed - duh!)

18. “Pulitzer Prize” Award - - Judge Delores Boyd (Wrote wonderful book, with Solomon Seay, Jr., about Solomon’s experiences as a civil rights lawyer.)

19. “The Illusionist” Award - - C. J. Sue Bell Cobb (The Chief decides cases, manages our judicial system, starts and expands programs, gives speeches to whoever asks - and to several who don’t- , participates in civic and charitable organizations, runs a family, and makes it all look easy.)

20. “Mine is Bigger Than Yours” Award - - Tommy Mancuso (Upset by Judge Hardwick’s ruling upholding a statutory ban on Big Boats, Tommy has vowed to appeal all the way to the U.S. S. Ct. - just to prove his boats are bigger than yours.)

21. “Honky Tonk” Judge - - Judge Will O’Rear (Our new judge plays guitar and sings in two groups, including “Burnt Toast”.)

22. “Nancy Pelosi Nonpartisanship” Award - - Al Agricola and James Anderson (Al represents only Republicans and
James represents only Democrats in election contests and other political matters.

23. “To Be (mayor), Or Not To Be” Award - - Judge Vanzetta McPherson, Martha Roby, Josh Segall, and Joe Reed, Jr. (Judge McPherson, who would win by acclamation, has said “no”; Martha has said “maybe”; Josh has said “not if my father has anything to do with it”; and Joe has said “only if my father has anything to do with it”.)

24. “Rolaids” Award - - Bill Blanchard, Jay Lewis, Ellen Brooks, Calvin Williams, John Kachelman, Kevin Davidson, and Judge Bill Shashy (All are, or should be, relieved that the Brent Springford capital murder trial has been settled.)

25. “Lawyers Most In Need of Psychotherapy” Award - - Connie Walker, Felicia Long, Jamie Johnston, Jeremy Walker and McDowell Crook (Shell-shocked from practicing with the Tommys - Gallion and Mancuso - for a full year.)

26. “Ground Hog Day” Award - - David Bronner (David is contemplating running for Governor - - again!  So, run already!)

27. “Best Imagination” Award - - Morris Dees (Kentucky Klansman said SPLC allegation that Klan inspired violence caused beating of a Latino teen was all Morris’ Imagination.  Jury returned a verdict for $2.5 million.)

28. “Barack Obama Guilt By Association” Award - - Jim Main (Because of his former association with Jere Beasley, the Business Council declined to support Jim for the Supreme Court, and he, therefore, deferred to now Justice-elect Greg Shaw.)

29. “Listeners Be Ware” Award - - Troy King (After Troy, through the miracle of technology, recorded a “duet” with Johnny Cash, the Mtgy Advertiser advised, “if music is playing, and people are singing, King would be advised to stay as far from a microphone as possible”.)

30. “Tommy Tuberville What Have You Done For Me Lately” Award - - Alex Holtsford (After serving only one (very successful) year as President of the Montgomery County Bar, Alex will be unceremoniously replaced in January.)

31. “Oprah Winfrey’s Beloved” Award - - Justices Champ Lyons, Harold See, Lynn Stuart and Tom Woodall (In reflecting on his outstanding service on the Ala. S. Ct., Gorman Houston said he loved 25 of the 26 Justices with whom he served and disliked only one.  Guess who?)

32. “Teddy Roosevelt (Wo)Man in the Arena” Award - - Lucie McLemore, Peggy Givhan, Steve Dodd, Jeff Duffey, Aimee Cobb Smith, Jon Hayden, Duncan Crow, Randy James and Arthur Ray (As President Roosevelt urged, they climbed into the arena seeking a life of (continued) public service and, although they lost, they dared greatly.)

33. “Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde” Award - - Tim Tyler (The person who nominated this Juvenile Court prosecutor for VO-CAL’s prosecutor of the year, said “he is as tenacious with defendants as he is gentle with victims”.  Tim won!!)

34. “Stephen Hawkins Mathematician” Award - - Joe Borg (After obtaining a guilty plea in a small securities fraud case, Joe said “$20,000 here and $50,000 there tends to add up”).

35. “ExtenZe” Award - - John Little and Clint Graves (They have extended the Kaufman, Gilpin firm by becoming Associates.)

36. “Best Name for a Judge” Award - - Judge Bill Thompson and Judge Bill Thompson (Court of Civil Appeals Presiding Judge and Revenue Department Administrative Law Judge.)

37. “How to Lose Friends and Alienate People” Award - - Dean Mooty and Michael Guy Holton (Sent dueling emails to all members of the Montgomery Bar supporting their respective choices for Circuit Judge, Randy James and Judge Johnny Hardwick.)

38. “General George Custer” Award - - Cheairs Porter (This Assist. AG fought the Creek Indians on gambling, but was ambushed by federal judge who dismissed Cheairs’ case as premature.)
39. “Adam’s Rib” Award - Judge Kelli Wise (Laid aside her ambition for a seat on the Ala. S. Ct. to support her husband’s bid for re-election to the Mtgy Co. Dist. Ct.)

40. “The Ol’ Ball Coach” Award - Dave Boyd (Shares Spurrier’s looks, mannerisms and winning ways.)

41. “Mystery Dream Boat” Award - Louis Franklin, Steve Feaga and J.B. Perrine (Whistleblower said a Siegelman juror had a romantic interest in one of the prosecution team. Our guys were strong candidates, but dreamboat turned out to be the FBI agent with the big gun.)

42. “Big Dipper” Award - Shannon Holliday (Through her lawsuit on behalf of legislators employed by Post Secondary, she is doing her part to preserve “double dipping”.)

43. “The Hottie and Nottie” Award - Katya Gill and Nelson Gill

44. “Best Reason To Use Middle Name” Award - Dan Morris (His first name is Laszlo.)

45. “Richard Nixon Enemies List” Award - James Anderson (As the only member of the State Personnel Bd to vote against investigating the Ala. State Employees Assn, James said - jokingly - “we’d all like to investigate our political enemies”.)

46. “Roll Over Beethoven” Award - Richard Cohen (J. Edgar Hoover would have rolled over in his grave had he seen a black woman FBI agent giving a prestigious award to Richard, a Jewish civil rights lawyer, for helping the FBI solve cold cases.)

47. “Daddy Daycare” Award - Kevin Butler (Took Paternity leave for 4 months to be with his new born child.)

48. “Audrey Hepburn Funny Face” Award - Nichelle Williams (This new lawyer for the Appleseed Foundation has Audrey Hepburn type charm.)

49. “Rosanne Rosannadana Never Mind” Award - Jerry Blevins (Argued successfully that indictment should be dismissed because his client, who hired a hit man to murder her husband, later said “Never Mind”.)

50. “The Lord’s (uh, Judge’s) Prayer” Award - Bill Messer and Bob Varley (As members of the ACLU Legal Committee, they prayerfully weighed how to respond to an Andalusia judge who preyed on feuding church members by causing them to pray with him in court.)

51. “The Sweet Young’uns” Award - Bart Spung (Wrote Alabama Voices column arguing that a minimum number of years spent practicing law should NOT be a requirement for becoming a judge.)

52. “Repeat Performance” Award - Martha Roby (Our Bar’s representative on the City Council is pregnant with her second child - which might deter her from running for Mayor.)

53. “Mamma Mia!” Award - Angie Rogers (Angie’s pregnant with her third child - which will not deter her from the active practice of law.)

54. “Star Dust” Award - Gibson Vance (This former president of the Mtgy Co. Bar Association and present president of the Alabama Association of Justice, and Vice President of the American Association of Justice, has been sprinkled with the dust of a star.)

55. “Daniel Boone” Award - Will Gunter, Shap Ashley, Bob Hill, George Matthews and Allen Sheehan (Members of the Society of Pioneers whose ancestors lived in Montgomery before 1855 - and who apparently never ventured elsewhere.)

56. “Animal House” Award - Judge Charles Price, Terry Davis, Lewis Gillis, Troy Massey & Sol Seay (These wild Frat men are among 46 active members of the prestigious, & formerly secretive, fraternity known as Phi Boule’ of Sigma Pi Phi- just celebrated 70th anniversary.)
“(You’re) Best (when) Dressed” Award - Jay Lewis (After completing 4 outstanding years of service as Administrator of Hugh Maddox Inn of Court, Jay said it was the most fun he had had with his clothes on since his last marriage.)

“Gentlemen’s Agreement” Award - Judge Jimmy Pool and Judge Arthur Ray (These gentlemen agreed to run only positive campaigns - and honored their agreement.)

“College Boys” Award - Jimmy Williams, Walter McGowin, and Mike Brock (Inducted this year into the American College of Trial Lawyers.)

“You Can Never Go Home” Award - Joana Ellis (But, Joana did, returning to Hill, Hill after a stint working for the State Insurance Dept. and Personnel Dept.)

“Exhibit A” Award - Justice Greg Shaw (This fine man’s good reputation was (perhaps) unfairly sullied as a result of Ala’s way of selecting appellate judges and the regrettable campaign his advisers felt he had to run in order to win.)

“Arrested Development” Award - Joe Levin, Jr. (This permanent frat boy was selected National Man of the Year by his College Fraternity. Even noted civil rights lawyers ought to grow up sometime.)

“There’s No Place Like Home (Depot)” Award - Doyle Fuller, Susan Copeland, Walter Byars, Flynn Mozingo and Joe Espy (They fought throughout the year over whether Montgomery or Pike Road is entitled to the substantial tax revenues generated by Home Depot.)

“Doris Kearns Goodwin Team of Rivals” Award - Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb (Acting as the professional she is, the Chief appointed her former rival, Drayton Nabers, as a member of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism - - which he formed in 2005.)

“Money Watch” Award - David Martin and Will Parker (David represents legislators who feel the Governor’s line item veto - defended by Will - encroached on Legislature’s responsibility to watch the money.)


“The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” Award - Beverly Howard, Trisha Mellberg, Jamie Johnston, Shawn Cole, Erika Tatum, Connie Walker, Sandy Speakman, Susan Kennedy, Joana Ellis, and Pam Slate (Good lawyers who frequently travel around in pants.)

“I Gotta Get Out of this Place” Award - Walter Turner (One of AG’s longest serving and best assistants is retiring.)

“George Clooney Leatherheads” Award - Mike Brock, Jeff Blitz, Winston Sheehan, and Gerald Swann (Lawyers who played college football - - a while ago.)

“Katherine Heigl’s 27 Dresses” Award - JoClaudia Moore (This good lawyer dresses for success.)

“Lost in Translation” Award - Grif Sikes, Jean Brown and Ken Wallis (Grif for AOC, and Jean for the Secty of State, thought they had agreed with Ken for the Gov. to use AOC’s list of 70 felonies to disqualify former felons from voting, but the Gov. used his own list of well over 400.)

“The Price Is Right” Award - Bobby Poundstone, Judge Jimmy Pool, Wally Walker, Frank Hawthorne, Corky Hawthorne, Les Hayes, Rhon Jones, Joel Connally, Joe Seawell Moore, Gunter Guy, David Martin, Jim Williams, Beverly Howard, Clay Crenshaw, and Cole Portis (Even at $6 million, the price was right for these Aubs to fire Tommy Tuberville, who managed to beat Alabama only 6 out of the last 7 years.)

“Federalism” Award - Judges Joel Dubina, Charles Coody and Dwight Williams (These federal judges did their
part to promote good relations between Federal Court and Mtgy Bar by speaking at Mtgy Bar’s judicial conference.)

74. “One Man Band” Award - - Tommy Gallion, Julian McPhillips, Justice Tom Parker, Mark Montiel, Judy Barganier, and Jerry Blevins (They march to the beat of their own drummer.)

75. “Most Progressive Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Kristen Nelson and Andrew Turner (Kristen is with the Equal Justice Initiative, and Andrew is with the Southern Poverty Law Center.)

76. “Most Conservative Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Julie Weller and Chris Weller

77. “Senior Tour” Award - - Judge Bill Gordon, Jimmy Hawthorne, Lanier Branch, Spud Seale, Tabor Novak, Bill Coleman, Charlie Paterson, Tommy Keene, and John Henig (‘Senior’ lawyers who play golf together. Most think they are on tour - or don’t know where they are.)

78. “Santa Claus” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr. (He’s made more charitable contributions anonymously than Santa Claus.)

79. “Gently Down the Stream” Award - - Pam Slate (She row, row, rows her boat with her crew in boat races.)

80. “Trial By Fire” Award - - Ben Espy (He tried a SHPDA case before Mark Montiel, his Dad’s long-time opponent in hotly contested cases. Mark says Joe made the right decision not appearing himself. And, Ben did a great job!)

81. “Cats & Dogs” Award - - Alice Ann Byrne and Mac McArthur (Alice Ann, as General Counsel for State Personnel Board, and Mac, as Executive Director of the Ala. State Employees Assn, seem not to like one another much.)

82. “Most Physically Painful Name” Award - - Tara Knee

83. “Good Samaritan” Award - - Johnnie Smith (She’s always helping others.)

84. “Rodney Dangerfield Respect” Award - - Will Sellers and Judge Bill Thompson (Invitation prepared by Judge’s campaign for a fund-raising event at Will’s house misspelled Will’s name.)

85. “Best Campaign” Award - - Bill Robertson, Louis Calligas and Megan McCarthy (They plied membership with alcohol at the Marina before winning the offices of President, Vice President and Secty/Treas., respectively, of the Young Lawyers Section of the Mtgy Bar.)

86. “Infamy” Award - - Judge Charles Thigpen (Chief Social Security ALJ was born on the day that will live in infamy - the day Pearl Harbor was bombed.)

87. “A More Perfect Union” Award - - Alan Rothfeder and Jo Karen Parr (They’ve merged well into their new firm.)

88. “Green Monster” Award - - George Beck (This monster of a lawyer has also become noted for his annual St. Patrick’s Day party.)

89. “Domestic Tranquility” Award - - Judge Karen Knight and Virginia Green (They’re responsible for it - as the presiding judge and the prosecutor of the Municipal Court’s new Domestic violence docket.)

90. “American Pie” Award - - Davis Smith, John Howard, Chad Cook, Alyce Robertson, Scott Speagle, Russ Abney, Navan Ward (And others who made partner this year, earning a piece of the American Pie.)

91. “Hit Men” Award - - Lance Gould, Stewart Vance, and Jay Aughtman (These killer golfers won the scramble at the Mtgy Bar Judicial Conference. Playing with Judge Tommy Jones – who won the “closest to the hole” prize - probably didn’t hurt.)

92. “King of Pop” Award - - Scott Loftis (Won longest drive competition at Montgomery Bar Judicial Conference.)
“Rush Limbaugh” Award - - Mark Montiel (This Republican gadfly goes all mavericky on his radio talk show, which is a partial replacement for the Don Markwell Show.)

“Against All Odds” Award - - Connie Barker (This outstanding Republican lawyer was appointed to the EEOC by President Bush and was confirmed by a Democratic Senate in an election year.)

“Thriftiest Lawyer” Award - - Richard Allen (In urging help from the General Fund, Alabama’s Prison Commissioner says his department has “pinched every penny”.)

“Bill O’Reilly No Spin Zone” Award - - Chris Weller (Bar’s most opinionated lawyer bemoaned the “misguided environmentalists” who support the mandate that biofuel replace 15% of our domestic fuel production by 2022. Chris says this will increase food costs.)

“Cutest Married Couple of Lawyers” Award - - Mary Pat and McDowell Crook

“Cutest (Finally) Married Couple of Lawyers” Award—Samarria and Kendall Dunson

“Cutest (bi-city) Married Couple of Lawyers” Award - - Valerie and Russ Russell (Russ is at Capell and Valerie is with Jock Smith in Tuskegee.)

“Cutest (about to be) Married Couple of Lawyers” Award - - Quin Evans and Josh Segall

“Cutest UnMarried Couple of Lawyers” Award - - Alyce Robertson and Billy Addison

“Cutest (Not part of a Couple of) Lawyers” Award - - Rachel Sanders-Cochran, Joana Ellis and Neal Farmer.

“Cutest Unmarried Couple of Assist AG’s” Award - - Stephanie Reiland and Jasper Roberts, Jr.

“Most Promising New Assist. AG” Award - - Will Parker

“Assist AG With Most Fulfilled Promise” Award - - Jim Davis

“Garden of Eden” Award - - Jimmy Pool and James Anderson (They represented the Director of ADEM for whom the grand jury reported no original sin and returned a No Bill!!)

“T. Boone Pickens Tribute” Award - - Greg Allen (This great lawyer’s helped Jones Law School so much they should rename the school for him.)

“Family Pride” Award - - Bob Esdale and Graham Esdale (This father and son share mutual and justified pride in one another.)

“Brothers in Arms” Award - - Jim and Beau Cooper and Jim and Kent Garrett (The Coopers have practiced together for over 30 years, and the Garretts for over 25 years.)

“(Step) Brothers in Arms” Award - - Robert Huffaker and Jim Garrett (They started at Rushton, Stakely on the same day 37 years ago - probably getting pretty tired of each other.)

“Brothers in (Legal) Retirement” Award - - John and Jim Scott (practiced together for over 40 years before retiring to more enjoyable and lucrative endeavors.)

“Sisters Act” Award - Lynn Clardy Bright and Janice Clardy Massa (They did their act this year on behalf of husband and brother in law, Bobby.)

“Nuts” Award - - David Avery (Revenue Department lawyer successfully argued that Dothan’s venerable Peanut Festival must collect and pay sales taxes, including back taxes.)

“The Big Hurt” Award - - Jay Hinton (Despite being one of the founders of the City of Pike Road, and having
served well on the City Council, Jay lost his seat in a close election.)

114. “Best Contribution to the Bar” Award - - Jeff Duffey (He contributes his wife, Suzanne Duffey, the Bar’s Executive Director.)

115. “Jim Thorpe Professionalism” Award - Doug McElvy (Unlike Thorpe, when Doug turned professional, he did not have to surrender his (numerous) Olympic medals, but instead was appointed Chair of the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism.)

116. “Hail Fellows” Award - - John Henig and Sim Penton (Elected to fellowship in the Alabama Law Foundation.)

117. “Big Shots” Award - Flynn Mozingo, J.B. Perrine, David Martin and Adrian Johnson (These present and future leaders of the Alabama State Bar were selected for the 2008 class of the Bar’s Leadership Forum.)

118. “Parting Shot” Award - - Don Valeska (Long - and big - time prosecutor for AG, who is rumored to be retiring, is prosecuting capital case as possibly his parting shot.)

119. “Bound for Glory” Award - Mark Bain, Bobby Poundstone, Emily Marks, David Martin, Matthew Shaddrix, Shannon Holliday, McDowell Crook, Navan Ward, Quin Evans, the Espy boys, and Kelly Pate (Among many young lawyers who are headed for outstanding careers.)

120. “The New G-Man” Award - - Austin Huffaker (President of the Federal Bar Association.)

121. “Mark Phelps Gold Medal” Award - - Richard Gill and Wally Walker ($24 million judgment against an insurance company affirmed by the 11th Circuit - - and paid.)

122. “One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest” Award - - Judge Tracey McCooey (And, it’s a good thing Judge was doing the flying. Her Mental Health Court continues to receive rave reviews.)

123. “Celebration!” Award - - Kenny Thomas (ASU General Counsel is still celebrating ASU’s huge Turkey Day Classic football victory - snapping Tuskegee University’s 26 game winning streak.)

124. “(Not quite) 180” Award - - Richard Allen (Our progressive Comm’r of Corrections was permitting visitors to register (non-moral turpitude) inmates to vote until the Chair of the Republican Party complained. Richard still allowed inmates to try to register on their own.)

125. “Snail Mail” Award - - Leura Canary (After a staffer got into her emails, Leura longs for the good old days of snail mail - or maybe just face-to-face conversations.)

126. “Mike Wallace 60 Minutes Man” Award - - Jimmy Fry (This hard-working Executive Director of Legal Services Alabama works 60 minutes out of every hour.)

127. “Premonition” Award - - Pat Sefton, Paul Clark and Kendall Dunson (My dream is that Pat will be President, Paul will be Vice-President, and Kendall will be Secretary/Treasurer of our Bar in 2009.)

128. “Good Will Hunting” Award - - Jim Edwards, Riley Roby and Will Sellers (Hunted the good will of banking clients when they joined other Balch Bingham lawyers in writing a handbook for bankers. Some refer to it as “The Banker’s Bible”. Must be short.)

129. “There Will (not) Be Blood” Award - - Ellen Brooks and Tim Tyler (Despite shouts for blood from Southern Heritage folks, our DA and Dep. DA prosecuted - as juveniles - 3 white teenagers who sprayed black paint on the Capitol’s Confederate Monument and referenced Nat Turner.)

130. “De’ Medici Patron of the Arts” Award - - Trey Granger (Mtgy County’s Director of Elections recruited artists to capture through their paintings the experience of voting in the presidential primary election.)
131. “The Good Shepherd” Award - - David Byrne, III (He’s done a great job as president shepherding Montgomery’s Trial Lawyers to an outstanding year.)

132. “Clone” Award - - Don Jones (Don has served as a Tommy Gallion surrogate - and a pretty good one - in representing Tommy’s long time friend and client, Johnny Goff.)

133. “No Country For Old Men?” Award - - Justice Gorman Houston (In happily accepting Brewer-Torbert Public Service Award from the Appleseed Foundation on his 75th birthday, Gorman said “this IS a Country for Old Men”.)

134. “This Is Really No Country For Old Men” Award - - Greg Poole and Frank Riggs (Although they said they voted for McCain because he was older and wiser and more experienced than Obama, the majority said “this is no country for old men.”)

135. “Tonto” Award - - Clint Carter, Dee Miles (And others who are sidekicks to Beasley in big verdict drug cases.)

136. “Spare the Rod” Award - - Marion Chartoff (Wrote Alabama Voices column urging Ala.’s school system to adopt a program focusing on rewarding good student behavior instead of punishing bad behavior.)

137. “Rupert Murdock Media Mogul” Award - - Rebecca Bryan (She’s General Counsel for Raycom which, with a little help from Dr. Bronner, purchased television stations owned by Liberty Corporation.)

138. “Baby Lawyer” Award - - Neah Mitchell, April Dunaway Wise, Bill Espy, John Marsh, Trisha Romano, Tim Gallagher, Jada Price Loftin, Peyton Faulk (And other lawyers who this year joined their first law firms.)

139. “Justice Delayed” Award - - Tony McLain (General Counsel for State Bar was barred from seeking discipline against a recently elected judge for alleged misconduct as a lawyer, i.e., until the judge was removed from office.)

140. “The Thrill of Victory” Award - - Judge Beth Kellum (Her years as an Assistant AG arguing criminal appeals before the Alabama appellate courts led to her winning a seat on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.)

141. “Terms of Endearment” Award - - Matthew Shaddrix, Bill Espy and Stacy Reed (Matthew and Bill successfully prosecuted, and Stacy defended, a man who contended his victim was a prostitute whose terms of endearment suggested consent.)

142. “Nothing But the Truth” Award - - Priscilla Black Duncan (Contending that GQ printed a Karl Rove statement that was not the Whole Truth, Priscilla demanded that the magazine retract the comment that Priscilla’s client, Jill Simpson, is a “complete lunatic”.)

143. “Reversal of Fortune” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Ellen Brooks and Daryl Bailey (Although the jury recommended life for the convicted killer of a Montgomery Police officer, Ellen and Daryl urged, and Judge Hobbs imposed, a death sentence.)

144. “Spike Lee’s Do the Right Thing” Award - - Daryl Parker (Daryl qualified to run in the Democratic Primary against Jimmy Pool, but did the right thing by withdrawing.)

145. “Drug Wars” Award - - Judge Tracey McCooey (The judge became involved in a dispute with Ellen Brooks over the Judge’s desire to include first time DUI offenders in the Drug Court program.)

146. “Dead Man Walking” Award - - William Gill (William wrote a letter to the Newspaper in support of the death penalty.)

147. “Keith Olbermann Best (Lawyer) Person In the World” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (He’s sacrificed the big bucks to fight capital punishment for almost twenty years.)

148. “Judge Shopping - And Buying” Award - - Win Johnson (Win argued in a letter to the newspaper that big jury verdicts justify the big money spent on judicial campaigns.)
“Chasing Liberty” Award - - Julian McPhillips (Julian’s Alabama Voices column urged that Richard Scrushy be released from prison pending appeal.)

“Home of the Brave” Award - - Judge Myron Thompson (Spearheaded a successful effort to convert the old Greyhound Bus Station into a Civil Rights Museum, the symbolic home of the brave Freedom Riders who were savagely attacked at this site 47 years ago.)

“Merry-Go-Round” Award - - Joe Hubbard (This fine young lawyer moved from Webb & Eley to Beasley, Allen and back again to Webb & Eley.)

“Father of the Bride” Award - - Hank Hutchinson and Nick Parnell (And other lawyer-fathers whose daughters got married this year.)

“Caveat Emptor” Award - - Charles Sowell and Chris Booth (General, and Assistant General, Counsel for Alabama Real Estate Commission.)

“Golden (uh, Copper) Parachute” Award - - Keith Miller (After this former Chief Deputy AG entered private practice, he contracted with AG to handle a long standing case alleging racial discrimination in State employment - - State Personnel’s Alice Anne Byrne requested him.)

“Muse” Award - -Tommy Gallion (Tommy so traumatized the presiding Judge in case against NCAA that Judge was inspired to write a book defending his conduct of the trial.)

“Horseshoes” Award - - Lee Copeland (Dispute involving severance pay to ASU’s president and the removal of Joe Reed’s name from the Acadome came close to settling twice in sessions mediated by Lee, but fell through twice. Too bad it wasn’t horseshoes.)

“W” Award - -Mark Englehart (2008 President of Hugh Maddox Inn of Court.)

“Fundamentalist” Award - - Juliana Taylor (Lawyer for families in crisis held news conference to say Senator McCain was fundamentally out of touch with the country’s working class when he said the fundamentals of our economy remain strong.)

“The Gold Standard” Award - - Keith Norman, Tony McLain, and Ed Patterson (The State Bar’s indispensable triumvirate.)

“Crank” Award - - Jeff Duffey, Matt Teague, Sean McTear, John Kachelman, and Judge Sharon Yates (Defense lawyers, Jeff and Matt, and prosecutors got so cranky in gambling trial that Judge Yates had to caution them to stay calm and keep their voices down.)

“Masochist” Award - - Wally Walker and Frank Hawthorne (These former Tommy Tuberville fans flew to West Virginia - voluntarily - to sit in freezing stands and watch Auburn lose to the Mountaineers.)

“Star Wars” Award - - Tommy Keene and Jere Beasley (They spoke at Mtgy Bar Judicial Conference about what it takes to be a great trial lawyer.)

“Best Memory” Award - - Yvonne Saxon (As president of the Beta Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Yvonne needs an outstanding memory to recall the name of the organization she leads.)

“Bulls Eye” Award - - Susan Kennedy (This talented lawyer’s contract with the Alabama Department of Education was unfairly targeted by Republicans on Contract Review because she is registered as a lobbyist for AEA.)

“A Patch of Blue(s)” Award - - Morris Dees (Played in band at Old Alabama Town with Blues legend, Willie King.)

“Welcome Back Kotter” Award - - Mike and Jamie Hill (Two great lawyers returned to Montgomery after a time
167. “Fats Domino’s Ain’t That A Shame” Award - - Charlanna Spencer (After supervising high-school students in mock trials, she said the students put some real Montgomery lawyers to shame - fortunately she mentioned no names.)

168. “Fifth Commandment” Award - - Pat Shegon (He honored his Father and Mother by giving them a 50th Anniversary Party.)

169. “Little Brother” Award - - Doyle Fuller (This big lawyer is the little brother of the famous Habitat for Humanity founder, Millard Fuller.)

170. “Without a Trace” Award - Beverly Howard and Raymond Johnson (They represent a husband accused of murdering his wife - who disappeared without a trace years ago.)

171. “Alpha” Award - - Al Scott (Number One lawyer at Alfa.)

172. “Joe the Plumber” Award - - Greg Davis (An outstanding lawyer with a feel for the average Alabamian - and a fondness for the occasional beer.)

173. “A Few Good (Wo)men” Award - - Tori Adams and Geri Grant (Long time Asst. AG’s who have been consistently outstanding in their jobs.)

174. “The Two Musketeers” - - Pam Slate and Susan Kennedy (They are generally together, generally in a good mood, and always ready for a good fight.)

175. “Rob Pattinson Twilight” Award - - Tommy Goggans (He’s a vampire litigator -- but a very nice guy.)

176. “Viagra” Award - - Tyrone Means (Tyrone told the County Commission that with respect to regulating payday lenders, the County and the City are impotent. Maybe Viagra will help.)

177. “Methuselah” Award - - Judge Charles Price (The first black DA in Alabama, and the first black circuit court judge in Montgomery, celebrated his 25th year on the bench.)

178. “The Fabulous Butler Boys” Award - - Phil Butler, Al Butler, and Bill Butler (Phil risked jail to raise money for Muscular Dystrophy, Al is Phil’s brother, and Bill never heard of either of them.)


180. “Most Correctable Lawyer” Award - - Vernon Barnett (As Chief Deputy Commissioner of Corrections, Vernon helps Richard Allen fix the correctable bad stuff in the prison system.)

181. “Most Romantic Name (For a Lawyer)” Award - - (Diane) Paris

182. “Night At The Museum” Award - - Kenny Thomas, Tyrone Means, and Lewis Gillis (Their holiday parties at the Museum have been extravaganzas.)

183. “Captain of Industry” Award - - Charlie Paterson (Chair of Montgomery Chamber of Commerce.)

184. “United We Stand” Award - Will Sellers and Clay Barnett (Will is the outstanding Chair of the River Region’s 2008 United Way campaign, but Clay has the more enviable job of soliciting lawyers.)

185. “Robert Downey, Jr. Iron Man” Award - - Red Bell and Walter Byars (Still going full-time and strong in their 80's.)
186. “Best Artist (for a Lawyer)” Award - - Celeste Sabel (She does beautiful pottery.)

187. “Best Television Personality (for a Lawyer)” Award - - Alva Lambert (He and Joe Haigler are still going strong early in the morning.)

188. “Best Spouse (of a former Television Personality)” Award - - Rick Morrison (His wife, Estee, gave up her career temporarily to bear his children. Good thing he’s a good lawyer.)

189. “Party Animals” Award - - Bill Coleman, Ham Wilson, John Weiss, Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Connie Barker, Leura Canary, Charlotte Mussafuer, John Holloway, Peyton Chapman, and Sexton Grant (Witnesses confirm they were getting down at a big December bash for the Jackson Hospital Foundation.)


191. “Taking Care of Business” Award - - Robin Laurie (This versatile lawyer accomplishes whatever needs to be done.)

192. “Lions For Lambs” Award - - David Bronner (Retirement System Lion ate up the Lamb-like historic preservationists who objected to his renovation of the old Alabama Supreme Court building.)

193. “Role Model” Award - - Charles Stakely (As President of the Gift of Life Foundation, this great community leader wrote an Alabama Voices column arguing that a modest investment in Medicaid would save the lives of a lot of babies.)

194. “Anatomy of a Murder (trial)” Award - - Don Jones and Aimee Smith (Don has won two mistrials in the capital murder case of one brother while Aimee, for the other brother, has avoided trial altogether for 5 years.)

195. “Tongue Twister” Award - - Robert Sasser and Pat Sefton (They, and their partners, formed the difficult to pronounce firm of Sasser Sefton et al. law firm.)

196. “Mixing of the Sexes” Award - - Allison Neal (Allison, an ACLU of Alabama lawyer, represents parents who oppose segregation based on gender in Mobile public schools.)

197. “The Thin Red Line” Award - - Richard Keith and Andrew Skier (They represented white teenagers who crossed the sometimes thin line between right and wrong when they defaced a Confederate Monument to make a statement against slavery.)

198. “Trust Fund Baby” Award - - Judge Bill Shashy (When the Governor sought to transfer Exxon lawsuit money from the Alabama Trust Fund (the State’s savings account) to the General Fund, the Judge said “no”, but the S. Ct. reversed on that pesky standing ground.)

199. “Born Yesterday” Award - - Chad Morriss and John Bell (It only seems like Chad’s son and John’s daughter, both of whom were nominated this year for the Jimmy Hitchcock Award, were just born yesterday.)

200. “Dunk!” Award - - Judge Terry Moorer (His son was selected AISA Basketball Player of the Year.)

201. “Wil Smith I Am Legend” Award - - Solomon Seay (His life, and his civil rights work, are the stuff of legends.)

202. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place” Award - - Ben Farrow (Represented homeowners objecting to a Montgomery County development where it was unclear whether Mayor Bobby (Rock) Bright’s or Mayor Gordon (Hard Place) Stone’s zoning ordinance applied.)
203. “Do Gooder” Award - - Leah Stephens (President of Junior League of Montgomery.)

204. “Road Runner” Award - - Lynn Thrower (Lawyer for the Two Year College System said within 7 hours of AEA’s filing a lawsuit to stop criminal background checks through the use of employee SS numbers, her Dept. agreed not to use them.)

205. “MoveOn.Org. Award” - - Sherrie Phillips (Moved from Miller Hamilton in Montgomery to Sasser Sefton.)

206. “Publicity Shy” Award - - Joe Van Heest and Richard Keith (In defending an accused cop killer, they unsuccessfully moved to change venue out of Mtgy on the basis of pretrial publicity.)

207. “Kevin Costner’s Water World” Award - - Eddie Davis (Gen. Counsel to ADECA said over $5 million in attorney fees has been paid on Water War litigation.)

208. “Gone With the Wind” Award - - Corky Hawthorne (In defending a vehicular homicide case, Corky sought the black box from the other car, but it was gone by the time he asked for it.)

209. “Dancing With the Stars” Award - - Chuck James (As a new member of the Board of the Alabama Association of Justice, Chuck is dancing with some of the best trial lawyers in Alabama.)

210. “Honorary Aronov-Lowder” Award - - Dee Miles and Cole Portis (In addition to their stellar law practices, they are developing an upscale subdivision across from Wynlakes.)

211. “School Daze” Award - - Ramadanah S. Jones (Left private practice to become staff atty for Montgomery County Bd of Education.)

212. “Boys Don’t Cry” Award - - Paul Beckman (When this Montgomery lawyer lost his race for the Prattville City Council, he grinned and accepted it.)

213. “Sign of the (old) Times” Award - McDowell Crook (This former journalist and outstanding lawyer wrote an excellent Alabama Voices column about the prospect for changing times - inspired by the anonymous person who stole his Obama-Biden yard sign.)

214. “Reverse Defamation” Award - - Bill Coleman (Newspaper headline proclaimed Bill as the recipient of the Small Business in the Arts Award, when he actually presented the award. Bill is considering suing the newspaper for the innuendo that his business was “small”.)

215. “Father and Son Reunion” Award - - Charlie and Frank Stakely, Robert and Austin Huffaker, Richard and Brett Garrett, and Dennis and Evans Bailey (Father’s Day is big at Rushton Stakely - even Hill, Hill never had this many father-son acts.)

216. “At the Foot of the Master” Award - - James Eubank (Law-clerking for Grand Master, and long time Presiding Judge, Charles Price.)

217. “Sunshine” Award - - Judge Arthur Ray (During the time of his Dist. Ct. service, this former Chair of the Mtgy Co. Republican Party was a Ray of sunshine, doing the Bench and Bar proud.)

218. “Happy Feet” Award - - John Bolton, Charlanna Spencer, and Royal Dumas (Left old firm and laterally transferred to Hill, Hill.)

219. “Dan in Real Life” Award - - Dan Taliaferro (In real life, Dan is real fine.)
“Moving On Up” Award - - Madeline Lewis (One of many Assistant AGs whose outlook on life has improved markedly since the move into AG’s new building - one said it’s like moving from dark into daylight.)

“Writing as a Second Language” Award - - Sandra Long and Greg Griffin (These lawyers also write for magazines, the newspaper, and on the internet.)

“John Grisham Best Seller” Award - - Russ Abney (Russ has co-authored two scintillating books on Texas Insurance Law. The sequel was really a page turner.)

“Tom Cruise’s Minority Report” Award - - Navan Ward (Navan chaired an award winning Young Lawyers Section program that addressed the shortage of minorities in the legal profession.)

“Splendor in the Grass” Award - - Ron Wise, Aimee Smith, Ben Schoettker, Mike Kidd, Richard White, Angela Starr, Terry Luck, Joe Van Heest, Christine Freeman, Tommy Goggans, Kevin Butler, Leslie Smith, Andrew Skier, Jeff Duffey, Bill Blanchard, George Beck, David Vickers, and Tom Azar (These criminal defense lawyers sometimes represent those who find splendor in the grass.)

“Perry Mason” Award—Scotty Hooper (He not only got criminal charges against his client dismissed, but found the real perpetrator.)

“Gee, We’re Going to Miss You” Award - - Nick Braswell, Bill Brewbaker, Margaret Childers, Judge Richard Dorrough, Virginia Farnell, Doug Freeman, Gil Kendrick, Gene Spencer, and Calvin Whitesell, Jr.

MCBA
Annual Meeting
January 15, 2009
12:00 Noon
Alabama Activity Center
201 Dexter Avenue

Agenda:
Election of 2009 Officers and Board Members
***
Memorial Recognitions
***
Recognition of 50-year Members

Cost of Luncheon—$15 (reservations required)

To make reservations, call the MCBA office at 265-4793 or e-mail DotRobinson@mc-ala.org.
SAVE THE DATE!

Montgomery County Bar Association’s 4th Annual Charity Event

Les Bons Temps

Saturday, April 18, 2009
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wynlakes Golf & Country Club

to benefit
Brantwood Children’s Home

Invitation to Follow