MCBA Holiday Gala Huge Success

Wynlakes Golf and Country Club provided an elegant setting for the Montgomery County Bar Association’s annual Holiday Gala. MCBA Board members and Executive Director, Suzanne Duffey greeted and mingled with members amidst sumptuous buffets and festive decorations. The band “Coosa River Broadcasters” entertained with country and bluegrass music throughout the evening. The Montgomery Association of Legal Secretaries (MALS) served as registration hostesses and raffled two enormous gift baskets, one of liquor and one of assorted goodies. The lucky winners were Mike Winter and Debbie Keith. Sgt. John McKinney and Sgt. Carl Rillo were on hand from the U.S. Marine Corps to accept the generous donations of toys for the Toys for Tots charity. Two hundred seventeen gifts were collected.

Membership Has Its Benefits- Time to renew

As a MCBA member you have many benefits. Last year your bar association sponsored 20 hours of free CLE for our members. We have an attorney lounge in the Law Library in the Montgomery County Courthouse where you can wait on a jury or meet with a client in private. The lounge has internet access with Westlaw, a fax machine, telephone and even a small refrigerator. This year we have worked with Legal Imaging, a litigation support company to install evidence presentation technology in the courtroom of Judge Charles Price. This was a huge undertaking that we thought would help all our members who try cases in the 15th circuit. We also are very proud of our past three MCBA Charity Events which have raised over $86,000 for five community based charities. This year MCBA will have its 4th Charity Event, “Les Bon Temps”, which will support the Brantwood Children’s Home. Last but not least, we have many social events for our members to enjoy. If you are lucky enough to be in the 50 Year Club, they met throughout the year on the 3rd Thursday for lunch at the Montgomery Country Club. But by far the favorite socials have been the last three Christmas parties at Wynlakes where we collected “Toys for Tots”. In 2008 MCBA collected over a 217 toys that we given to children here in the Montgomery area. Invoices for 2009 MCBA Membership dues have been mailed and are due by January 31, 2009. Thank you for mailing your dues. If you do not receive your copy of The Docket after this month, or have questions concerning your dues, please call us at 265-4793.

Regular Membership $100
Licensed less than 2 yrs $60
Government Attorneys $80
Law School Students $50
Legal Assistants $45
Meet the Candidates for MCBA Board Election

The following individuals are vying for three seats on the MCBA Board of Directors: Roianne Connor, Ben Schoettker, Adrian Johnson, Randy Lyons and Karen Chambliss. Kendall Dunson is running for Secretary-Treasurer of the Board unopposed.

Roianne Houlton Connor
Roianne Connor is a graduate of Troy State University in Montgomery and Jones School of Law. She has been licensed since 1987. She is a former Montgomery Police Department Investigator, Deputy District Attorney (1991-1993), and is the Special Master, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Court Judges requiring her to make recommendations regarding child custody, visitation, and support in Domestic Relations Court, Child Support Court, and Juvenile Court. Roianne has taught criminal justice courses at TSUM, AUM, Jones School of Law, and Faulkner University. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, recently, receiving the Montgomery Family Violence Center Distinguished Service Award in 2006.

Ben Schoettker
Ben is a graduate of Jones School of Law. He was licensed to practice law in 2002. He worked as a legal assistant with Anderson & Carr and with Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, PC while in law school. Ben was an assistant district attorney for two years before entering private practice and founding Barfoot & Schoettker, L.L.C. Ben focuses on the areas of personal injury, criminal defense, and probate matters. He is on the CJA panel of federal criminal defense lawyers assigned to represent indigent defendants as well as serving as contract counsel with the Hon. Judge Tracey Mccooey in state court representing indigent defendants. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two children.

Karen Chambliss
Karen is a native of Montgomery and a graduate of Auburn University and Jones School of Law. She has practiced law since 1990. Karen worked as a law clerk for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama and was an adjunct professor at Faulkner University. She has developed a comprehensive domestic relations and family law practice, and is a member of the U.S. District Courts for the Middle District of Alabama and all courts of Alabama. She is currently a staff attorney for the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Her volunteer efforts benefit many local agencies.

Randy Lyons
A native of New Orleans, LA, Randy earned his BA degree at Auburn University; he graduated from Cumberland School of Law. Randy has been in private practice since 1990 specializing in civil litigation with an emphasis on corporate and insurance defense. He has conducted numerous education seminars for various organizations and has spoken to groups regarding municipal liability as well as construction law. He and his wife, Fran, have three children and reside in Auburn now.

Adrian Johnson
Adrian D. Johnson is an attorney with the firm of Parnell & Crum, P.A., where he practices in the areas of insurance subrogation, commercial litigation and construction litigation. From 2006 to 2008, Adrian served as President of the Young Lawyers Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association. He is a graduate of Class IV of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum and presently serves on the Alabama State Bar Judicial Liaison Committee, History and Archives Committee and Leadership Forum Planning Committee. In addition to his Bar activities, Adrian serves on the Governor’s Black Belt Action Commission and is President of the Family Service Center of Lowndes County Advisory Council. He is a graduate of Auburn University and the Cumberland School of Law, and is a member of the Hayneville Baptist Church.
Kendall Dunson

Kendall Dunson, a shareholder with Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, & Miles, PC, is a native of LaGrange, Georgia. Kendall earned degrees from the University of Georgia and the University of Alabama School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in both Alabama and Georgia. He practices in the areas of Product Liability, General Personal Injury, and Workers’ Compensation involving defective industrial machinery. He is currently serving on the Montgomery County Bar Association, and just completed a term on the Board of Governors for the National Bar Association. Kendall’s wife, Samarria Munnerlyn Dunson, is the Assistant General Counsel of the Alabama Dept. of Public Health.

Kendall is running unopposed for this position on the Board.

Kris Adair has been the Assistant Law Librarian and MCBA Administrative Assistant since 2002. Kris is stepping away from regular office hours to pursue her passion for art. The MCBA thanks Kris for her outstanding service and wishes her well in her artistic endeavors. She will still be helping in the office as needed on special tasks. Her warmth and humor will be missed.

Thank You, Kris Adair!
SAVE THE DATE!
“Les Bon Temps”
MCBA 4TH Annual Charity Event
To benefit Brantwood Children’s Home
Saturday, April 18, 2009
Wynlakes Golf and Country Club
6-9 p.m.

MCBA Holiday Gala ...

Votes for MCBA Board members and Officers may cast at the MCBA office/Law Library on Jan. 12, 13, and 14 or at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 15.