Our Success Still Depends on You

Paul Clark, MCBA President 2010

I have on the bookcase in my office several framed photos representing some pretty great memories from both law school and my legal career. There is a shot of the guys with whom I played intramural football each of the three years we were in law school; a photo of my law school graduation, a picture with some colleagues on a random firm retreat, and several other pictures chronicling my 10 years as a lawyer here in Montgomery. Perhaps my favorite photo is of a group of young lawyers with whom I was privileged to work in presenting the first Montgomery County Bar Charity Event back in 2006. The event that year was a formal ball, the Barrister’s Ball, by name. The seven of us who represented the Young Lawyers’ Section on that first charity event committee—Jennifer Wallis, Tanya Dugas, Arden Pathak, Bill Robertson, Adrian Johnson, Joe Seawell Moore, and me—look out from that photo in formal attire with bright smiles as we hold the “big check” presented to a deserving local charity. We were all proud that night, and very much relieved, because it had taken us a lot of work to get there.

The MCBA Charity Event was the brain-child of Judge Jimmy Pool during his tenure as Bar president. By the time plans for the Barrister’s ball got off the ground, Don Jones was sitting in the President’s chair and played a vital role in those early days. I was the president of the Young Lawyers’ Section back then, and Don tasked us with coordinating all the logistics associated with the effort. Without any collective experience in putting on a charity event of any kind, much less a formal ball, we really had to feel our way along. We had some hiccups and heartache— I remember looking for the antacids when both the signs and the programs for the Ball had to be completely redone in the last hours before the event—but our group really worked hard to put on the best “first event” we could.

Despite all of our elbow grease, however, our effort would not have been a success without the incredible generosity and gracious participation of the members of this Association. Our members not only bought tickets and made personal and business donations, but they also called upon friends and colleagues to do the same. That year, the very first year of the MCBA Charity Event, the MCBA raised $30,000 to present to a worthy local charity. That incredible accomplishment could not have been possible without you, our members.

Here we are in 2010, about to put on our fifth charity event. Some of those young lawyers in the photo on my bookshelf have moved on from Montgomery, but most are still here and are still active in our Association. (Adrian is our Secretary/Treasurer, and Bill is Young Lawyers’ President.) The Charity Event itself has changed over the years; we shed the tuxes after the first year (thank goodness), and we’ve gone from low-country boils to silent auctions. What has not changed in the years since that photo on my shelf was taken, is that the success of the Charity Event depends on you. Without your support and participation in this year’s event benefiting Common Ground Of Montgomery, we will not be able to continue the tremendous successes our Association has achieved in past events. We have a tremendous event planned for this year, and a fantastic charity to support. So, get involved—buy your tickets, make your donations, and encourage not only your friends in the legal community, but also in the community at large, to join us in making this year’s event the best ever.

Paul Clark
pclark@balch.com
The YLS recently held its first annual meeting and social on Thursday, February 11th. The event, which took place at the new Alley Station ballroom located in the new entertainment alley downtown, had over 100 young lawyers in attendance. Additionally, we are proud to announce that more than 25 young lawyers enrolled in the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program while enjoying the sounds of the Coosa River Broadcasters. We are looking forward to seeing you at this event next year, and we thank all of the young lawyers who showed up and made the event a success.

Another event that needs to be mentioned is the upcoming 5th Annual MCBA Charity Event on Thursday, April 22nd. This event will also be held at the new Alley Station ballroom, and this year’s proceeds will benefit Common Ground Montgomery Ministries. Common Ground Montgomery has as its goal neighborhood/community redevelopment. CGM’s strategy is to become part of the fabric of under-resourced neighborhoods in order to serve and help create, develop, and empower local leaders, and to build healthy families through biblical discipleship. By entering into the lives of others, CGM seeks to build healthy leaders for all walks of life for our communities. We hope that you will plan to attend this worthwhile event to help promote the efforts of CGM.

If you have any questions about the charity event in April, please contact this year’s chairman, Louis Calligas (lcalligas@balch.com). If you have any other questions about the YLS, feel free to contact Megan McCarthy (mmccarthy@hglawpc.com) or me at bill.robertson@beasleyallen.com.

Young Lawyers’ First Annual Meeting and Social

Pictured below, L-R: Clint Graves, Tim Gallagher, John Marsh, Laurel Crawford, Mandy Chambliss, Allen Sheehan.

The sumptuous buffet was provided by King’s Table Catering.

Pictured right:
Joe Seawell Moore, Seth Rhodebeck, Megan Rhodebeck, Megan McCarthy.
Few professions are as stressful as the practice of law. Every day, lawyers talk to clients about problems. They work long hours, and often face frustration and disappointment when they feel they can’t right a wrong. Too often, people facing these types of challenges try to find relief in what seems an easy answer—alcohol and drugs. However, this temporary relief can quickly spiral out of control, leading to devastating consequences.

Here to help is the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Program (ALAP). The ALAP is a program of the Alabama State Bar (ASB) that assists legal professionals with chemical dependency and/or psychological problems. It provides evaluation, assessment, and referral services, peer and facilitated support, aftercare programs, and monitoring services. It serves lawyers, judges, and law students in Alabama. In addition, ALAP engages in preventative services through educational outreach programs and presentations to the judiciary, law schools, law firms, bar associations, bar seminars, and other organizations.

Working in conjunction with the ALAP, the Alabama Lawyer Assistance Foundation can provide funding for lawyers who cannot afford treatments. The money is distributed as a loan, paid directly to the treatment provider, and attorneys make arrangements to repay the loan when they are back on their feet. This ensures there are always funds available for the next lawyer or judge in need. Lack of funds should never be a reason why a lawyer does not get appropriate help.

ALAP is assisted by the Lawyers Helping Lawyers Committee and its many lawyers and judges throughout the state who volunteer to carry the message to fellow members of our profession that recovery is possible.

Recently, the ALAP honored three lawyers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to this program. James O. Standridge (Crowder & Standridge; Tuscaloosa, AL) received the Highest Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the innumerable lives he has touched through encouraging and selfless actions. He has passed on hope to the hopeless and encouragement to the dismal and broken. Kimberly Davidson (member, Shelby County Bar) was honored for her commitment and service to women in early recovery. She hosts a women’s support group in her home each week, encouraging wellness and recovery, and helping women get through the shame of addiction. Mobile Bar’s Mack Briner Binion III (Briskman & Binion; Mobile, AL) was recognized for his time and commitment in assisting members of the legal profession through offering hope and healing to members in need. Mack has formed a recovery support group in Mobile for lawyers in recovery.

If you need assistance with an alcohol or drug dependency problem or with other emotional or stress-related issues, or know someone who does, please contact the ALAP. They are there to help. You can find more information online at www.alabar.org/alap. You can also call to speak to someone confidentially at 334-834-7576. These calls do not go through the State Bar switchboard and are confidential. These names are not referred for any type of disciplinary action. If you feel you are in urgent need of assistance, the ALAP operates a 24-hour help line at 334-224-6920.

Thank you, to each of you, for giving your time and talents to help those in crisis.

Mack has formed a recovery support group in Mobile for lawyers in recovery.

Tom Methvin,
Alabama State
Bar President

MCBA 5TH ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT TICKET ORDER

APRIL 22, 2010  6:30–9:30  AT THE ALLEY STATION

NAME ____________________________ PHONE ________________________

ADDRESS __________________________________________

# Tickets _____ @ $50.00 Each  (Make Checks to MCBA.) Mail to: MCBA, P.O. Box 72

Montgomery, AL 36101
Common Ground Montgomery- Recipient of MCBA Charity Fundraising for 2010

Bryan Kelly and Kevin King are two men with a common mission. They were recently honored by The Montgomery Advertiser as recipients of the 2010 King Spirit Honors for their work with Common Ground Montgomery. Common Ground Montgomery is their mission to improve Montgomery’s at-risk Washington Park neighborhood, where in the past two years both Kelly and King have come to reside with their families. Their community ministry addresses the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of families they now call neighbors, with a strong impact on encouraging children and teens with mentoring, goal-setting, spiritual guidance and other efforts.

In the midst of an internship in the Ninth Ward of post-Katrina New Orleans, Bryan Kelly and his wife, Delta, realized their mission—neighborhood revitalization and racial reconciliation. In 2006, the family moved to Washington Park in west Montgomery—a neighborhood bordered on the east by Interstate 65, on the north by Day Street, and on the south by Fairview Avenue—and started Common Ground Montgomery.

“I was always struck by the racial divide in the Deep South, especially among churches. That always had a profound impact on me,” Kelly said. “I remember the neighborhoods I grew up around, playing sports with kids from those neighborhoods, and how most of those kids didn’t graduate from high school. Many of them were murdered; some of them became murderers. It always plagued me, seeing that.”

In Montgomery, where his wife grew up, Bryan Kelly saw desperation. But having seen communities turned around in New Orleans, he also saw the prospect of hope. After raising funds with the help of local churches and businesses, he began coaching prospective volunteers for Common Ground Montgomery and bought two houses in Washington Park. Still, his motive wasn’t to sweep in and “fix everything.” “I knew I was as much of the problem as anybody else,” he said. He and his wife decided to reorder their family’s lifestyle. Instead of chasing what he calls “the negative side of the American dream,” he discarded ambitions of upward mobility.

The Kellys’ current house had been dilapidated and boarded up for years. It had become ground zero for illegal activity among the area’s youth. Now renovated, it is not only a home for the couple and their four young sons, but a hub in the rebounding community, including a regular Bible study with Carver High School football players.

The organization is developing a three-acre community center for neighbors to access Bible study, summer camps, arts classes, a computer lab, a safe recreation space, a counseling center, daily after-school tutoring, jobs training and other community resources.

But Kelly and his staff don’t plan to stop there. Once the needs of Washington Park are fulfilled, they plan to continue to work to repeat that success in other poor Montgomery communities.

Just months after Common Ground Montgomery was established, Kevin King moved into the Washington Park neighborhood with his wife, Nicole, and their young daughter. Like Bryan Kelly, King had seen the effects of life in a bleak community.

He said he saw a lot of gang activity, drug use, prostitution and other crime in the poor Mobile neighborhood where he grew up. Thanks to his single mother and members of the family, King took a more positive path. West Montgomery bore a striking resemblance to his old Mobile neighborhood, and he wanted to work for change.

“I felt there was something more that God was calling me to do,” he said. “I wanted to come from behind the podium (King and Kelly are both ministers) and actually build relationships with these people, become a friend… to be in a position to serve and...
Welcome to MCBA!

MCBA welcomes these new members:
Johnnie Birley—student, Jones School of Law
Michael Brymer—Montgomery County District Court
Bradley Edmonds—Alabama Court of Civil Appeals
Mark Griffin—Alabama Department of Revenue
Lynn Mokray—United States Air Force, JAG Corp
Jennifer Smith—Vickers and White, PLLC

We also welcome back these former members:
Clay Benson—Esco and Benson, LLC
Paul Esco—Esco and Benson, LLC
David Moncus—Auburn University

Our membership continues to grow. Please encourage your colleagues who are not MCBA members to join.

(COMMON GROUND CONTINUED FROM P. 4)

love."

Around this time he met Bryan Kelly at a local church. "I wanted to get involved. I was seeing the heart behind the ministry, and it was genuine," he said of Common Ground Montgomery.

King said he and his wife, who grew up in Chicago and witnessed the same kind of community strife there, committed to the organization because they both believe that is where God has led them.

He said that is a long way from what the common definition of success is—moving up to a higher income bracket, a better neighborhood, an elevated level in society. "We never wanted to be a part of that," King said. "After you graduate, you get a good job, you move out of the 'hood', and that's it. My mindset has changed, and I no longer see success as moving out of the hood and not turning back."

Montgomery County Bar Association’s Board is proud to partner with Common Ground Montgomery for our annual charity fundraising event. The visionary leadership of Bryan Kelly and Kevin King will have long lasting impacts on our city, for the betterment of families and neighborhoods. Please participate in the Charity Event with your attendance, with donations for the silent auction, and/or sponsorships.

The Docket

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334-265-4793
Suzanne B. Duffey,
Executive Director

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Dot Robinson, Editor,
MCBA 5th Annual Charity Event

to benefit

Common Ground Montgomery

April 22, 2010

6:30–9:30 p.m.

Alley Station

130 Commerce Street

Special Guest: Danny Wuerffel

Platinum Sponsor: $2,000 (12 complimentary tickets)

Gold Sponsor: $1,000 (8 complimentary tickets)

Silver Sponsor: $500 (4 complimentary tickets)

Bronze Sponsor: $250 (2 complimentary tickets)

Sponsor Name __________________________________________

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Make sponsor checks to Alabama Civil Justice Foundation so that your gift is tax deductible.
Welcome

By Tamika R. Miller, J.D. Candidate 2010

We want to welcome the MCBA members to the JSL Corner, a new section of The Docket. Students in attendance at Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law write the JSL Corner and are excited for the opportunity to bring JSL news and student inspired articles to the members of the MCBA.

Our staff includes a range of law school students from different backgrounds and perspectives, so you will never get the same story twice. In addition, we are committed to adding to the The Docket new and fresh articles, while at the same time continuing to honor the style and traditions of The Docket.

We hope that in issues to come, you will enjoy our stories, the JSL news and our articles will provide you with something to think about and maybe even a pleasant trip down memory lane. The JSL happenings for the month of March and April are located at the bottom of this page. This list is not exhaustive of all JSL events for March and April, but includes the events currently finalized on the calendar. We hope that MCBA members will attend any events listed and support Thomas Goode Jones School of Law.

JSL Happenings:

March 2010
March 1-4th- Law Week: All events will take place at Thomas Goode Jones School of Law
- March 1st- 12:00 p.m.- TBD
- March 2nd- 12:00 p.m.- TBD
- March 3rd- 12:00 p.m.
  Host: Ernestine S. Sapp chapter- Black Law Students Association & Jones Public Interest Legal Foundation
  Speaker: Judge Johnny Hardwick, 15th Judicial Circuit
  *lunch will be provided
- March 4th- 12:00 p.m.
  Host: Faulkner Law Review
  Speaker: Alyce Spruell, President-Elect of the Alabama Bar Association
  * lunch will be provided

March 27th- 7 p.m.
Barrister’s Dinner
Location: Renaissance Hotel- Montgomery, AL

April 2010
April 12th- TBD
Don Garner Charity Golf Tournament
Location: Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail
All proceeds go to the Jones Student Relief Fund

April 17th- 7 p.m.
Ernestine S. Sapp-Black Law Students Association Scholarship Dinner
Honoree: Retired United States District Court Judge- U.W. Clemon
Location: Troy Hall, Troy University-Montgomery

If you have any questions about any JSL events or suggestions for article topics, please contact Tamika R. Miller at tamikarmiller@gmail.com.
OUTSTANDING CLE OPPORTUNITIES

TO REGISTER FOR SEMINARS, EMAIL dotrobinson@mc-ala.org OR CALL 334-265-4793.

Friday, March 5
Courthouse 3rd floor
12:00-1:00  Effective Opening Arguments presented by Chris Glover (Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.)

Thurs., March 18
Courthouse 3rd floor
12:00-1:00  Preparation for Mediation presented by Robert Ward (Rushton, Stakely, Johnston, and Garrett, P.A.)

Friday, April 16
Courthouse 3rd floor
9:00-12:00  ASB Road Show: Ethics by Sam Partridge, Practice Management Tips by Laura Calloway, and Lawyer Assistance Program by Jean Marie Leslie

Thurs., April 29
Wynlakes Country Club
10:00-11:30  Rules of Evidence presented by Dean Charles Gamble, Henry Upson Sims Professor of Law, Emeritus, University of Alabama School of Law

Lunch will be available for $20 each. **You must pre-register for this event!** His books will be on sale at this event.

Friday, May 14
Courthouse 3rd floor
10:00-12:00  Storytelling and Narrative Structure in Trial Advocacy presented by Professor Jeffery Baker, Professor of Law and Director of Clinical Programs, Jones School of Law

Friday, June 4
Courthouse 3rd floor
11:00-12:00  Probate Court-Involutional Commitments—The Basics and More—presented by Elizabeth Spear (The Law Offices of Aimee C. Smith)

**Topics for other CLE’s to be offered by MCBA this year:** Workmen’s Compensation—Early Resolution of Work Related Claims; Arbitration Update; Landlord-Tenant Issues; Employment Law Update; and more. Watch your future issues of The Docket and email announcements for more information.