Good News in the River Region

Introduction by Paul Clark, President, MCBA

By now most of you have heard about Montgomery’s visit from the CNN news van. Many of you either watched the broadcasts as they were aired, or perhaps, like me, caught a replay via the Internet. The newscasts, part of a series of stories by the news network, focused attention on the relative good fortune of Montgomery and the River Region during the on-going economic recession which has brought so much misfortune to the country and the world as a whole. We heard from local businessmen, real estate developers, and many of our government leaders. We saw shots of new hotels, restaurants, and other businesses which are leading the way in the revitalization of downtown Montgomery. It was definitely a welcomed “feel good” segment which let the nation know about great stories happening in our own backyard.

The economic stability and growth of our community is not, however, the only, and is by no means any more important, than the community building efforts which continue to happen behind the scenes in our area. On the forefront of these efforts is Common Ground Montgomery, our recipient of this year’s MCBA charity event. The focus of this month’s Docket is to bring to light some of the great work that Common Ground is doing to provide stability and hope to some of the neighborhoods in Montgomery which need it the most. I hope you will enjoy learning about Common Ground’s efforts and that will join us I supporting this very deserving cause by attending the MCBA fundraiser at Alley Station on April 22. Below is a message from Bryan Kelly, the Director of Common Ground Montgomery.

Greetings, Montgomery Bar Association! We are so humbled and thankful to be partnering with you as the recipient of funds from your 5th Annual Charity Event. Through this event the MCBA will be sharing in our efforts towards neighborhood redevelopment in the Washington Park/ Gibbs Village community. CGM is currently engaged in many initiatives in our community and we would like to encourage you with some of them. Every day during the week between 80-100 kids come to our current facility to participate in an after school program where they receive tutoring, participate in sports activities, and are exposed to various arts.

One of our major contributions to our community is the provision of caring adults who focus on and mentor these kids. Half of our staff currently live in our community just a block or so from our facility, and others are moving in over the year. This mentoring, presence, availability, and sharing of life allows us to develop the types of relationships with the kids and their families that move us beyond the impact that any program can offer. The heart of what we offer is the ability (cont. p. 8)
Congratulations to Faulkner University’s Thomas Goode Jones School of Law on its recent full accreditation. The school announced in December that it has been granted full approval by the American bar Association (ABA) Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions as an accredited institution of legal education.

This designation makes Jones the third accredited law school in Alabama and is a significant milestone. Dean Charles Nelson, Jones staff, instructors and students should be very proud. Full accreditation means Jones graduates are eligible to sit for the Bar exam in any state.

Jones School of Law received congratulations from Alabama Gov. Bob Riley and Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, among others.

“I personally recognize the influence that Jones’ alumni, administrative staff and faculty members have had on our legal community, and I am grateful to them for their continued support,” Chief Justice Cobb said. “The recognition that this achievement will bring to our state at a national level is certain to reap benefits to our citizens.”

According to school history, Montgomery County Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones founded the Law School in 1928 at the request of several young men and women who wanted to pursue a legal education but could not afford to give up their employment to attend a traditional law school. It was originally owned and operated by Judge Jones as a proprietary educational institution, and he served as president, dean, and faculty member until his death in 1963.

Jones is consistently recognized as an outstanding choice for the pursuit of a law degree. The National Jurist magazine has ranked Jones School of Law as one of its Best Value Law Schools, and The Princeton Review included the school in its Best 172 Law Schools list for 2010. In 2009, Jones boasted an 89.4 percent pass rate for first-time bar takers, surpassing the overall rate for the state, which was 77.3 percent. The Law School also boasts a nationally prominent advocacy program whose teams are winning trial advocacy and moot court competitions across the country.

Jones Law School recently welcomed its Class of 2012. The class is comprised of 150 students from 22 states. Out-of-state students make up 50 percent of the entering class.

“This achievement is the result of the hard work of many people who took this as a goal and pursued it,” said Dean Nelson. “To all who played such a significant role in our development over the past five years, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks and our congratulations for a job well done. And, as in all things, to God be the glory.”

I’d like to add my congratulations, also, on behalf of the Alabama State Bar, on this momentous achievement. We are proud of all who helped to make it possible, and look forward to many years of success and continued achievement from Jones Law School and its graduates. Thank you for your continued dedication to excellence in the practice of law.
Young Lawyers Section News

As we approach the spring and summer months, the YLS is gearing up to host several events that we hope you will make plans to attend. In April the YLS is hosting a joint social with the students and future lawyers from the Jones School of Law. Specifically, we will have an after-work social at Bud’s in Old Cloverdale with the Jones students, and the social will begin at 5:30 p.m. We are expecting a large crowd, and we hope you will come be a part of this event.

For any young lawyers who are looking for an opportunity to help our community and State Bar, the Young Lawyers’ Section of the Alabama State Bar Association will host a Phone-a-thon on April 7, 2010 at Beasley Allen from 8:30-noon in an effort to increase the number of young lawyers who participate in the Alabama State Bar’s Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP). Participants in the phone-a-thon will contact various young lawyers throughout the state and assist them in signing up for the VLP over the phone.

Alabama is ranked last in the country in providing funding to assist the poor in gaining access to the judicial system. Currently, one of the most effective ways that the poor in Alabama have received help with legal issues that they face is through the VLP. This program allows practicing lawyers to opportunity to volunteer to take 1 or 2 cases per year in the fields that they choose, in order to help those that would otherwise not be able to access the legal system. The Director of the State VLP, Linda Lund, will be present to assist all who are participating in the Phone-a-thon. If you are interested in participating, please notify Navan Ward or Bill Robertson at Beasley Allen (334-269-2343).

Another event that needs to be mentioned is the upcoming 5th Annual MCBA Charity Event on Thursday, April 22nd. This event will be held at the new Alley Station ballroom, and this year’s proceeds will go to benefit Common Ground Ministries. Common Ground-Montgomery has as its goal neighborhood community re-development. 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 from all walks of life for our communities. We hope that you plan to attend this worthwhile event to help promote the efforts of CGM.

In June and July, we will have a YLS Biscuits outing and host our annual YLS charity golf tournament. More details on those events will follow in the coming issues of The Docket, but feel free to contact any of the individuals below if you have any questions about the Biscuits outing or golf tournament.

If you have questions about the charity event in April please contact this year’s chairman, Louis Calligas (lcalligas@balch.com).

Bill Robertson, YLS President (bill.robertson@beasleyallen.com)

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MCBA 5th Annual Charity Event
Ticket Order form

Name _____________________________ Phone _____________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________

# tickets _____ X $50 each = ___________ (checks made to MCBA)
The Stresses of Summer Employment- Three Different Approaches

By Rose Metzger & Brett Smith, J.D. Candidate 2012, Tamika R. Miller- Editor, J.D. Candidate 2010

I love the summer; however, I have mixed emotions about this upcoming summer, 2010. I strive for the ideal summer, working a full-time paying job in a law office that specializes in my “field of dreams.” Unfortunately, I receive a stark reality check, which highlights the current economy, my class standing, and the numbers of other students with my same dream. My checkbook confirms the truth that I cannot afford to work this summer simply “for the experience.” Yes, experience will pay off in the end, but green backs from a short stint at say Movie Gallery, or another non-legal job, will pay off sooner. However, I am still proactive in my search. I will study two foreign languages this summer, no matter what job I land. The ability to speak a second language will serve well wherever I work after graduation. A word of encouragement to the fellow summer job seekers: Keep up the good work, stay positive and good luck!

-Rose Metzger

The race is on and the saga continues. Students at Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law have been busy racing the clock and fellow students to land this upcoming summer’s clerkship or internship. In the wake of the economy’s recession, paid internships have been difficult to come by leaving law students scrambling to offer free service to law firms in exchange for legal experience. However, on a positive note, Jones School of Law has received full accreditation from the American Bar Association, meaning it now plays on the same field as Alabama School of Law and Cumberland School of Law. All students at Jones School of Law hope to land a potential internship or clerkship for the summer. With such a diverse group of students there has to be somewhere in, the Montgomery legal community they will fit in; so, I continue in the race to look for summer employment and just as countless others plan to find it,

-Brett Smith

The search for summer employment is a job in itself. It requires time you do not have and patience you learn to encompass. In a depressed economy and many law firms downsizing the search is even harder, however, you must think outside of the box. I remember my first summer internship. I worked as a contract legal clerk, which meant I did not receive a consistent paycheck. However, the experience was invaluable. I learned how to do everything from drafting pleadings to attend client interviews. How many first year law students can say they got that experience? I understand that we all want to be paid for our services and that will come in due time, but remember the experience you obtain by working with a judge or clerking with a firm, gratis is still useful on your resume and trust me will help you further down the road. Firms and agencies want attorneys that have practice experience because they want a return on their hire investments. You cannot obtain experience unless you get out there and work, so do not be discouraged if you have to “give” your time away this summer. Just think that same firm or agency that you clerked with may look at you for your 2L summer and offer you paid employment, which is excellent. It worked for me and it may work for you. My advice is to keep searching and this summer work some place where you will obtain skills that are useful for your future legal career.

-Tamika R. Miller

JSL Happenings:

April 2010

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

April 17th- 7p.m.
Ernestine S. Sapp-Black Law Students Scholarship Dinner
Honoree: Hon. U.W. Clemon, Retired U.S. District Judge, Northern District of Alabama
Location: Troy Hall, Troy University Montgomery
Ticket prices: $39/person, $59/couple-Contact Tamika Miller about purchasing a ticket (tamikarmiller@gmail.com)
# 2010 CLE OPPORTUNITIES

(Our thanks to Kim Ward for scheduling these programs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>SPEAKER</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/16</td>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
<td>State Bar Program: Ethics, Practice Management Tips, Lawyer Assistance Prog. (1 hour each)</td>
<td>Sam Partridge, Laura Callwoay, Jeanne Marie Leslie</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
<td>Rules of Evidence (1.5 hr.)</td>
<td>Dean Charles Gamble</td>
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<td>sign in 10-10:30—Lunch available $20.00—At Wynlakes Country Club</td>
<td>You must pre-register for this CLE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/14</td>
<td>10am-12pm</td>
<td>Storytelling and Narrative Structure in Trial Advocacy (2 hr.)</td>
<td>Professor Jeffrey Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Probate Court Involuntary Commitments-The Basics and More (1 hr)</td>
<td>Elizabeth Bern Spear</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/29</td>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td>Workers Compensation—Early Resolution of Work-Related Claims (1.5 hr)</td>
<td>Shawn Junkins Cole</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Arbitration Update (1 hr.)</td>
<td>Professor Kenneth F. Dunham</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>10:30-12:00</td>
<td>Employment Law Update (1.5 hr)</td>
<td>Elizabeth Carter</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Landlord—Tenant (1 hr.)</td>
<td>William Messer</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>12pm-1pm</td>
<td>Municipal Court—Domestic Violence (1 hr)</td>
<td>Milton Westry</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/12</td>
<td>8am-12pm</td>
<td>Sharpening Your Saw Conference with the Attorney General’s Office at the State Capitol (more details TBA)</td>
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<td>10/14</td>
<td>11am-12pm</td>
<td>Appellate Mediation (1 hr)</td>
<td>Jim Rives</td>
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<td>10/22</td>
<td>8am-12pm</td>
<td>MCBA Bench and Bar Conference, Prattville TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/4</td>
<td>12pm-1pm</td>
<td>Alabama Securities Act (1 hr)</td>
<td>Randall McNeill</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>11am-1pm</td>
<td>Automobile Litigation (2 hr)</td>
<td>Will (Trip) Walton</td>
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To register for any of these programs, either email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call Dot Robinson at 265-4793. There is no charge for any CLE program other than the Bench and Bar Conference. However, lunch will be offered for some conferences, by reservation only for a modest cost.
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 and a table)

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

Silver Sponsor: $500 (4 complimentary tickets)

Bronze Sponsor: $250 (2 complimentary tickets)

Individual tickets cost $50 each. Call the MCBA Office (334) 265–4793 for

more information or to order individual tickets.

Sponsor Name __________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________

Phone ____________________ Level of sponsorship ____________________

Make sponsor checks to Alabama Civil Justice Foundation so that your gift is tax deductible.
MCBA Thanks Our 2010 Spring Charity Sponsors*

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Beers, Anderson, Jackson, Patty, and Fawal, P.C.

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CTL, Inc.

The Law Offices of Sandra Lewis and Karen Laneaux

*sponsors committed as of press time*
Common Ground (continued from p.1)

To come alongside people and “do life” with them on a daily basis. It is in that context of trust building and accountability that real issues can be addressed. Proceeds from the MCBA Charity Event will be used in the construction of a new heated and cooled recreational facility. This facility will include a basketball area, bathrooms, class rooms for dance, arts, and karate, as well space for our summer camp. The entire cost the new facility is $170,000. We have already raised $70,000 towards this project and have approximately $20,000 worth of bricks to be sold from an old building that was torn down on our property. We hope that the MCBA Fundraiser can give us a great start on the remaining amount needed.

Meet some of the people involved with Common Ground Montgomery. Bryan Kelley and family (center) and Kevin King and family (right) have moved into the Washington Park community to build the Common Ground Montgomery ministry.