The Half-way Report

How in the world is it already June? The cold mid-winter was swiftly borne away by the beautifully mild spring. Suddenly, the switch was thrown and the incredibly temperate spring has been replaced by the familiar dripping heat of a Montgomery summer. By the time most of you read this article, the primary elections will be over, high school graduates will be packing for college, all of your favorite shows will either be in rerun or gone—thank goodness I don’t have to hear anyone else proclaim how “Lost” is the greatest show on television—and, hopefully, we will all be slowing down a bit and enjoying family vacations or other distinctly summer indulgences.

But June means that we’re nearing the half-way mark for the year and that it’s time to recap the first half for all of you keeping score at home. There have been three significant events in the MCBA in the first half of 2010: The Volunteer Lawyer Program sign-up drive; the Fifth Annual MCBA Charity Event; and the Law Day Breakfast/VLP Lawyer of the Year Award. Through the hard work and dedication of our members, each of these events was a great success.

Our association’s effort to raise the number of our members who have joined the ranks of the VLP has been incredibly well-supported. Through sign-up tables at various MCBA events and phone-a-thons spear-headed by Rhon Jones, one of our hard-working Board members, 49% of the lawyers in Montgomery County who are eligible to participate in the Alabama State Bar’s VLP have now signed up. There is absolutely no reason that we can’t have over 50% of our members signed up by the end of 2010 for this incredibly necessary program which affords many people in our community the access to our legal justice system they could not otherwise afford. Thanks to all who have signed up for this program, and I challenge each of you who have not signed up to call Rhon (334-269-2343) and let him know that you’d like to help us reach our goal.

Thanks to your support and the magnificent work of our charity event committee—ably led by Louis Calligas—our association was able to donate $24,000 to Common Ground Montgomery, the beneficiary of this year’s MCBA Charity Event. You’ve seen information on this very deserving group in previous editions of the The Docket, and I can tell you from first hand experience (continued p. 7)

MCBA Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to announce these new members to our bar association:

Laura Betts—Leavell and Associates
Laura L. Clemons—The Clemons Law Firm, LLC
Bradley Edmonds—Alabama Court of Civil Appeals
D. Patrick Harris—Harris and Harris, LLC

Vania Hosea—Abell and Associates, LLC
Safiya Ingram—State Military Dept.
Mary Alexander Oliver—State of Alabama
Victoria Relf—Victoria Relf, Attorney at Law
Jacquelyn Tomlinson—Skier and Associates
Young Lawyers News
By Bill Robertson, YLS President

Looking ahead to this summer, the MCBA YLS has lined up several events for the summer months, and we hope that you will make plans to join us. The first of those events is a Biscuits outing that has been set for Thursday, June 24th. The YLS has reserved the Whistle Stop Grille for the outing, and your ticket price of $25.00 will include a ticket to the game, a meal, and refreshments at our private concessions stand. For those of you who work at firms that have summer clerk programs, we hope that you will bring along your summer clerks and give them an opportunity to meet the young lawyers in our area and to enjoy some time away from the office. You should have already been receiving email notices about the Biscuits outing, but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the officers at the email addresses listed below.

In July, the YLS will be hosting our annual charity golf tournament to benefit Brantwood Children’s Home. More details on the tournament will be provided in the July issue of The Docket, but you can contact this year’s tournament chairman, Clay Barnett, at clay.barnett@beasleyallen.com if you have any questions. We will be sure and notify you via email as soon as the date and location for the tournament have been set, and we encourage you to bring along your summer clerks to this event, as well.

Also, in September we will be having our bi-annual YLS elections for all officer and board member positions. Specifically, positions will be open for President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and five board member positions. More details on the elections will be sent to you via email and will also be provided in upcoming issues of The Docket, but as always, feel free to contact any of the current officers with questions you may have about the positions and/or duties of those positions.

If you have any other questions and/or comments about the YLS, feel free to contact Bill Robertson (bill.robertson@beasleyallen.com) Louis Calligas (lcalligas@balch.com) or Megan McCarthy (mmcarthy@hglawpc.com). We look forward to seeing you this summer.

Membership is always open at MCBA. If you know any new attorneys who recently passed the State Bar, encourage and invite them to become members of MCBA. Dues for new attorneys cost $60.00 a year. They can come by our office to join or join online at mcbar.org.

FOR LEASE OR SALE

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

8415 Crossland Loop and 8439 Crossland Loop

8415 Crossland Loop (1458 sq ft) Available August 1
- 4 offices or 3 offices with conference room
- Reception and waiting area plus break room

8439 Crossland Loop (2066 sq ft) Available July 1 or sooner
- 6 offices and break room
- Reception and waiting area
- Large conference room
- His and hers bathrooms

Crossland Loop is across from Sturbridge on Vaughn Road.

For more information, call Sonny Davis 221-1100.
Face to Face: Speaking engagements provide valuable insights
By Thomas J. Methvin, President, Alabama State Bar

It has been one of the greatest opportunities of my time as Bar President to able to travel throughout the state and talk with local Bar associations and other groups. Your feedback about how we can provide true Access to Justice for the people in Alabama has been invaluable.

I’m pleased that this year we’ve able to promote the good work lawyers do every day. Events like Pro Bono Week and Law Day have provided an opportunity to share with the public the services you render through the Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP). By speaking at these events, I have been given more chances to promote the great work that lawyers do.

Together we have created a strong foundation for future growth of the VLP. Together, we have a real chance to improve Access to Justice for those less fortunate in our state. Thank you for these opportunities. Below is a list of places I have spoken so far.

Speaking engagements 2009-2010:

- Attended Joyce Vance Investiture as U.S. Attorney
- Reception for Judges and lawyers sponsored by Birmingham Bar Association
- Accepted proclamation from Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange declaring Pro Bono Week
- Attended Chief Justice’s State of the Judiciary at Alabama Legislature
- Attended Chief Justice’s luncheon for new admittees to the Bar
- Interview with The Montgomery Independent
- Mobile County Bar Association
- Houston County Bar Association
- Opening of the Supreme Court
- Interview on “The Law and You” radio program (WVAS)
- Cumberland Class “Called to the Bar” orientation
- Southern Conference of Bar Presidents
- Montgomery Bench and Bar
- Interview with Carolyn Hutcheson, WTSU/APT
- Lauderdale County Bar Association
- Cumberland CLE– Mandatory Professionalism Training
- Montgomery County Commission meeting
- Bar Admission Ceremony
- Etowah County Bar CLE and Reception
- Lee County Bar Association
- Mobile Bench and Bar
- Lawyer Legislator Breakfast  (continued on p. 7)
The Montgomery County Bar Association’s 5th Annual Charity Event took place April 22 at the casually elegant Alley Station. One hundred fifty members and guests feasted on the sumptuous fare of seafood dishes and caterer Al Steineker’s mouth-watering bread pudding prepared by King’s Table Catering. On the rooftop terrace, The Spike Graham Orchestra entertained guests with contemporary music under the stars. The event was organized by Louis Calligas and his committee. The donations from sponsors and silent auction sales totaled $24,000.00.

The former NFL quarterback, Danny Wuerffel, was the special guest. Danny’s work with Desire Street Ministry in New Orleans before and after Hurricane Katrina has had him in the spotlight often. Common Ground Montgomery is associated with Desire Street Ministry, and we were honored to have him attend the charity event and speak to the guests. Bryan Kelly, Director of Common Ground Montgomery, and his co–director, Kevin King, were in attendance with a large group of volunteers who are associated with the Common Ground Montgomery work. Desire Street and Common Ground both are non-profit faith-based organizations focusing on the spiritual and community development in impoverished communities. Common Ground Montgomery began in the Washington Park community in west Montgomery offering tutoring, bible studies, parenting classes, sports, and summer day camp.
On May 19, the MCBA presented Bryan Kelly of Common Ground with a check for $24,000.00.

Pictured left to right:
Jamie Welch (Development Coordinator, Common Ground), Bryan Kelly (Director, Common Ground), Paul Clark (MCBA Pres.), Kendall Dunson (MCBA Vice-Pres.), Bill Robertson (YLS Pres.), and Suzanne Duffey, MCBA Executive Director.
Parting Words to Law School Year 2009-2010

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

I would be remiss if I let my 1L year pass without thanking those around the school who have helped me survive the year. First, there are my professors who consistently went way beyond the demands of their job descriptions. Secondly, the attorneys who took time from their private practices to share their wisdom with me or participated in various school programs. Thirdly, my student colleagues who shared their experiences and cheered me on non-stop. Finally, there are the administrative, financial aid, career services, maintenance, and library staff who do such a good job greasing the wheels everyday that it’s easy to take them for granted and forget about them. For all the times I may have hurried past any of you, carrying my books and my caffeine, with my flash drive dangling, and nary a sideways glance or nod in acknowledgment, thank you for making this a phenomenal year for me!

-Rose Metzger

Spring Finals are almost near and this is when everything gets crazy. Final exams is a period of time when I exercise regularly, eat three meals a day, drink at least 80 ounces of water, and get 8 hours of sleep each night. However, this year’s final exams mean so much more than the previous years. There are two reasons behind those feelings. First, as a third year student, I only have one exam (YEAH!). The second reason is the realization that I am taking the last law school exam ever required in life (unless I fail, which we hope not!) This year’s final exam brings to my attention that I am finishing a chapter of my life. The actual practice of law is knocking at the door and it is scary. I will now be required to deal with real-life clients and their problems, along with real-life debt repayment. To think that I will have the opportunity to help someone with their problem to the best of my ability and training is overwhelming yet honorable. It will be an honor for people to trust that I can assist them when they have nowhere else to turn. When I place my fears into this perspective, I get excited to take the world of law by storm. However, before I plan my big dreams which may include what type of office furniture I will buy or what color to paint my office I need to come back to planet earth and complete my first task: take and pass my final exam.

-Tamika R. Miller

If you have any questions about any JSL events or suggestions for article topics, please contact Tamika R. Miller at tamikarmiller@gmail.com.
(speaking engagements, cont. p.3)

- Judges Conference, Birmingham
- Alabama Association for Justice Mid-Winter meeting
- Investiture of Judge Abdul Kallon
- Madison County Bar Association
- Calhoun/Cleburne Bar
- Tuscaloosa Bar Association
- Walker County Bar Association
- Minority Pre-Law Conference
- Montgomery County Bar Association Law Day Breakfast

I look forward to continuing to speak out about Access to Justice during the remaining part of my term.

**SPRING CHARITY EVENT 2010 AT THE ALLEY STATION**

(The Half-way Report, continued from p.1)

that the money we donated will indeed make a difference in the lives of all those that Common Ground serves right here in Montgomery. Thanks again for giving back and supporting this extremely worthy group.

It should come as no surprise to those of you who faithfully read The Docket every month (all twelve of you—my mother not included), that Royal Dumas of Hill, Hill, Carter, Franco, Cole and Black, P.C. was named the first ever VLP Lawyer of the Year by the MCBA Board. Royal has thrown himself into our monthly pro bono clinics, and I can honestly say that without Royal and the backing of his firm, these monthly clinics would never have happened. Royal richly deserves to be the VLP Lawyer of the Year and has earned our sincere thanks.

None of these things could have happened without you, so be back at this time next month when I'll preview for you the second half of 2010. Together we will continue to make the MCBA great—and perhaps have a little fun along the way. Until then, keep the sunscreen close by, the beach towels washed, and the grill fired up—it's going to be a great summer!

Royal Dumas, VLP of the Year
**CLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**

All programs are held at the Main Courthouse, 3rd floor Jury Assembly Room unless otherwise noted.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>6/4</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td><strong>Probate Court- Involuntary Commitments- The Basics and More</strong></td>
<td>Elizabeth B. Spear</td>
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<td><strong>Workers Compensation– Early Resolution of Work Related Claims</strong></td>
<td>Shawn Junkins Cole</td>
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<td>Prof. Kenneth Dunham Jones School of Law</td>
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<td>1 hr.</td>
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<td><strong>MCBA Bench and Bar Conference</strong></td>
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