Honored to Serve

By Kendall Dunson, President

I am honored to serve as President of our county bar association. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity. I am so proud to be a part of an organization that serves its member lawyers and our community in so many ways.

I have to give a special thanks to my law partners at Beasley Allen for their support and encouragement. At Beasley Allen law firm, service to others is a commitment that we all share.

My time on the Board and the Executive Committee has allowed me to more fully appreciate our organization. I have seen firsthand how our outreach has improved the circumstances of many people and created opportunities where none previously existed. We must all continue to remember that “Service is the price you pay for the space you occupy.”

The attorneys selected to serve on the Board and the Executive Committee have shown dedication and will continue to make decisions that are in the best interest of our member attorneys and the community at large. In addition to the attorneys selected to serve, the MCBA staff is instrumental in the planning and implementation of the Association’s business. The MCBA staff does a fantastic job at managing the day to day operations of the Association. They deserve our appreciation and our respect.

During the past year, the Association has conducted CLE’s for member attorneys, sponsored socials to encourage comradery and welcomed new attorneys to the practice of law in Montgomery County. This year, we will continue the process of updating our website to better serve our members. Next, we will attempt to make wireless internet access available throughout the Montgomery County Courthouse.

My goals for this year are quite simple. I hope and plan to continue to do the good work the Association has been doing over the years and to build on that solid foundation of service.

We have already commenced planning our Charity Event for 2011. The event will take place on Cinco de Mayo at the Wynneakes Country Club. Our designated charity is One Place Family Justice Center for Montgomery, Alabama. One Place Family Justice Center of Montgomery aids victims of domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse and sexual assault. In short, they defend the members of our (cont. p. 3)
I’ve always thought of February, in all its cold wintriness, as an interim month sandwiched between the newness of the year in January and the softness of March’s end as it welcomes Spring. For me, it’s one redeeming attribute is Valentine’s Day, that celebration of romantic love, but we could equally contemplate love of God, love of neighbor, and love of country during this quiet month. It’s difficult sometimes to maintain a balance between our careers and the people we love, between clients as people, and clients as income. Pondering the following story during the “month of love” helps me keep the right balance.

And old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside all people. “My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, selfishness, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.”

The grandson thought for a minute, and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf wins?”

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**ONE PLACE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER – THE 2011 MCBA CHARITY**

First in a series of articles about One Place Family Justice Center and its In-House Partners

By Steve Searcy, Executive Director

Montgomery is now home to a unique concept in providing services to victims of domestic violence and prevention of domestic violence. On October 29, 2010, the One Place Family Justice Center held its grand opening at the Center’s location at 530 S. Lawrence Street in Montgomery.

The Montgomery County Bar Association has selected the Family Justice Center as the recipient of the proceeds of its 2011 charity fundraiser. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Bar for this selection on behalf of the Board of Directors and Community Partners. We are extremely grateful to the Montgomery County Bar Association for selecting One Place Family Justice Center to be the recipient of the proceeds of its 2011 charity fundraiser. The bar’s participation in the Center is a very important contribution to the success of the Center. Funding for the Center is truly a coordinated community financial investment. The City and County joined together to purchase and renovate the building. Civic and community groups as well as governmental agencies, such as The Junior League of Montgomery, Kiwanis of Montgomery, the Working Women’s Association, the MCBA, the District Attorney’s Office of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, and other groups have provided generous financial assistance.

The Center’s Board of Directors is headed by Ellen Brooks, District Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit. Along with others, we have shared the dream for a centralized location for domestic violence assistance for nearly 30 years. Making our dream a reality was a monumental task. It could not have happened without the cooperation and efforts of the City and County of Montgomery, the District Attorney’s Office, the Family Sunshine Center, and numerous other service providers, agencies, civic groups, and individuals. (cont. p. 5)
Governor Riley Appoints Adrian Johnson to Judgeship

Former Governor Bob Riley appointed immediate past Secretary/Treasurer of the Montgomery County Bar Association, Adrian Johnson, to fill a vacancy on the Lowndes County District Court as judge. The appointment was effective January 1, 2011.

Adrian Johnson has practiced law at Parnell and Crum. He formerly clerked for Circuit Judge John Bush. In addition to his vast legal experience, Johnson has been involved in area civic organizations, including serving as the president of the Advisory Council for the Family Service Center of Lowndes County and serving on the Community Development Committee of the Black Belt Action Commission. Gov. Riley said, “I’m pleased to appoint Adrian Johnson to the bench in Lowndes County. Not only does Mr. Johnson have the legal experience befitting this position, he has also demonstrated a care for his community that will help make him a fine District Judge.”

Adrian also served two years as President of the Young Lawyers Section.

MCBA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Boaz, James D.– Law Office of James D. Boaz
Ford, Matthew– Bailey & Glasser,LLP
Godwin, Michael– Chambless, Math, & Carr, PC
Jones, Effie– Student, Law Office of Jeffery Duffey
Michel, Anthony– Montgomery County D.A.’s Office
Nelson, Steve– Jobe T. Ott, LLC
Moody, Jon– Montgomery County D.A.’s Office
Perine, James– Bailey and Glasser
Searcy, John– Mooty and Associates

Your ordinary could be a foster child’s EXTRAORDINARY.

There are approximately 300 foster children in Montgomery County. Perhaps you can open your heart and your home to a child in need. For more information, please visit us at www.dhr.alabama.gov or call 1-866-4AL-KIDS(1-866-425-5437)/locally (334)293-3100.

Honored to serve (continued from p.1)

Society that are most vulnerable. I hope that you will join me in making this the most successful fundraiser in the history of our Association.

Montgomery County has the best judges in the state along with the most dedicated, yet civil attorneys in the state. Therefore, we must strive to have the best county bar association. The Board and the Executive Committee appreciate your support, and we welcome your comments and ideas. Feel free to attend a Board meeting to address any concerns you may have or just send any of us an email and we will attempt to promptly address your concerns. Again, thank you for the opportunity, and I look forward to serving you. I feel privileged to be a member of the MCBA, and I hope you do, as well.
Save the date!
May 5, 2011

The MCBA
Spring Charity Fundraiser
to benefit
The One Place Family Justice Center

Sponsor Levels
Platinum- $2,000 (12 free tickets)
Gold- $1,000 (8 free tickets)
Silver- $500 (6 free tickets)
Bronze- $250 (4 free tickets)

Make checks to ACJF. Mail to MCBA, P.O. Box 72,
Montgomery, AL 36101
One Place Family Justice Center continued from p. 2

Montgomery's Family Justice Center is affiliated with the National Family Justice Center Alliance, headquartered in San Diego, CA. Casey Gwinn, President and CFO and Gael Strack, CEO of the Alliance offered immeasurable assistance and guidance in the founding efforts of Montgomery's Center, which is the first of its kind in the Southeast.

Other Board members are Karen Sellers, Vice President; Rick Heinzman, Treasurer; Jannah Bailey, Secretary; Michael Briddell, Lawson Bryan, Monica Jordan, Doug Lindley, Donnie Mims, Ham Wilson, and Angelo Trimble.

The vision of One Place Family Justice Center of Montgomery, Alabama is to enhance the efficiency and utility of resources made available by or on behalf of existing non-profit, non-governmental victim services organizations, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, professionals, chaplains, legal advocates and other community based organizations. Its mission is to provide a comprehensive service and support center which provides greater safety, access to services, and confidentiality for victims and their families.

One Place Family Justice Center is composed of both on-site and off-site partners. The Center does not replace any existing agencies, but incorporates them via an on-site presence at the Center. On-site partners include the following: Montgomery Police Department, District attorney’s Office, Legal Services Alabama, Volunteer Program, Intern Program provided through Jones School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic, Chaplains Program, Child Advocacy and Elder Abuse Services provided by Family Sunshine Center, and Sexual Assault Experts from the Lighthouse SART/SANE Programs. On-site services include advocacy, counseling, court support, forensic documentation of injuries, internet access, law enforcement, legal assistance/child custody, legal assistance/divorce proceedings, legal assistance/immigration, legal assistance/restraining orders, military assistance, safety planning, services for seniors, and victim compensation.


Domestic violence is an ongoing and escalating process, which often starts off subtly. It frequently begins with emotional abuse which precedes physical violence. Domestic violence is all about power and control. The victim is worn down and loses self-esteem. The control may be expressed emotionally, financially, or in the activities of the victim. At some point, the victim’s resistance to the control can create a flashpoint of physical violence, placing the victim in extreme danger. This flashpoint can also be triggered by outside events such as anniversaries, loss of job, serving of divorce papers and court orders. Alcohol and/or drug abuse also contribute to domestic violence.

There were eight domestic violence homicides in Montgomery in 2009. In the first 6 months of 2010 there were seven. In many cases, law enforcement has had not prior contact with the victim or the offender. The cost of one homicide has been estimated to be more than one million dollars. Family Justice Centers have a proven record of reducing these homicides.
MCBA MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Michael and Geri Braun. They had a son, Max Cronier Braun, born September 29.

Congratulations to Jayne Harrell and Anthony Williams. They had a son born January 15. His name is Ellis, but they call him E.J.

Congratulations to John E. Tomlinson and H. Clay Barnett, II. They are now shareholders in Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.

John Tomlinson has been an associate at Beasley Allen since May 2002. He worked in the firm’s Consumer Fraud Section before moving to the Environmental Law/Toxic Torts section, where he is currently involved in the pursuit of claims for several individuals and businesses against BP and other responsible parties as a result of the oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. In December 2010, John was selected as Beasley Allen’s Lawyer of the Year for the Toxic Torts Section.

Clay Barnett joined the firm’s Consumer Fraud Section as an Associate in May 2007. His practice focuses primarily on the Average Wholesale Price (AWP) litigation. Clay represents the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Kansas, Hawaii, and Alaska in fraud actions filed against a long list of pharmaceutical companies. Since 2004 Clay has coached various high school mock trial teams in the Alabama YMCA High School Mock Trial Competition. In addition, he has taken two different Alabama state teams to the National High School Mock Trial Competition in 2006 and 2010.

Thomas T. Gallion, III, a senior member of Haskell Slaughter Young & Gallion, LLC, has been named Chairman of the Board of Directors of Woodmen of the World/Omaha Woodmen Life Insurance Society effective January 1, 2011. Mr. Gallion has been a Woodmen of the World member since 1953, and was elected to the organization’s Board of Directors in 1988. A recipient of Woodmen of the World’s Meritorious Award Citation and a member of Montgomery Lodge 25, he has served in every local lodge office. In addition, he has held several positions in Woodmen of the World’s Alabama Jurisdiction, including that of President from 1985-1987.

The Capital City Bar Association (CCBA), with the support of the Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C. firm, sponsored its annual Christmas party to support Child Protect. It is the mission of Child Protect to support children who are victims of abuse through the investigation and management of their cases in a non-threatening environment. The CCBA raised more than $1,000 to benefit Child Protect, in addition to collecting over 100 teddy bears. Child Protect uses the teddy bears to facilitate interviews of children who have been victims of sexual and physical abuse. The CCBA is a minority bar association consisting of attorneys from the Alabama River Region.

The largest fraternal benefit society with open membership in the United States, Woodmen of the World was founded in Omaha, Nebraska, by Joseph Cullen Root in 1890. Spanning three centuries, Woodmen of the World has evolved into a modern financial services organization that offers insurance, annuities, and securities. Woodmen of the World members, who belong to more than 2,000 lodges throughout the United States, conduct volunteer, charitable, and patriotic projects that benefit individuals, families, and communities.
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To pre-register for a seminar, email Dot Robinson at dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or call 265-4793.

CLE seminars are held in the Jury Assembly Room, third floor of the Montgomery County Courthouse unless otherwise stated.
Montgomery County Bar Association

P.O. Box 72
Montgomery, AL 36101-0072

Phone: 334-265-4793
Fax: 334-265-9536
www.mcbar.org

Cinco de Mayo
Spring Charity Fundraising Event

May 5, 2011 at Wynlakes Country Club
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Proceeds go to One Place Family Justice Center

Tickets—$50.00 each.

Tickets may be purchased at the MCBA Office or One Place Family Justice Center. Make checks payable to Montgomery County Bar Association.

PAY YOUR MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION DUES TODAY!