Reflections on 2011

By Kendall Dunson, MCBA President 2011

To the membership, thank you for allowing me to serve you and the Montgomery community as President of this great organization. My term as President concludes this month and as it comes to an end, I am reflecting on the achievements of the past year. At the beginning of my term, our Board laid out an aggressive plan to benefit our members and the community at large. I believe we met those goals and even exceeded expectations in some areas. I certainly cannot take credit for this past year’s accomplishments. These goals could not have been met without the support of Mike Winter, our incoming President, and our Board of Directors. Our Executive Director, Suzanne Duffey, and her assistant, Dot Robinson went above and beyond to ensure that all of our events were successful. Both Suzanne and Dot are as dedicated to MCBA’s cause as any member attorney. I cannot forget to give a special thanks to my law firm, Beasley & Allen, and my wife, Samarria Dunson, for their unwavering support.

Last January I took office and pledged to raise and donate more money to MCBA’s Charity recipient than ever before. With the assistance of the Board, the organizing committee, Judge Price, members of the Young Lawyers and the Montgomery community we were able to achieve that goal. More importantly, we were able to assist people in need through One Place Family Justice Center. The money donated to One Place Family Justice Center is clear and convincing evidence of what can be accomplished when diverse people work together for the benefit of all.

Other goals throughout my term included assisting with upgrading the technology in the Phelps -Price Montgomery County Courthouse and offering our member attorneys an updated county bar website. Past President, Pat Sefton, challenged the MCBA to have at least 40% of our bar register with the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program (“VLP”). Under past President, Paul Clark, we achieved that goal. This past year we set the foundation for a long term Pro Bono plan that will guide MCBA’s

(Kendall Dunson)

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MCBA ANNUAL MEETING
January 27, 2012

The Montgomery County Bar Association will hold its Annual Meeting at the RSA Alabama Activity Center, 201 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, at 12 noon on January 27, 2012. Members may arrive early and begin voting at 11:30 a.m. The cost for the buffet lunch is $15.00. The agenda for the meeting will include:

Installation of 2012 officers
Mike Winter has served as Vice-President in 2011, and in accordance with the bylaws, will automatically become President for 2012. David Martin has served as Secretary/Treasurer in 2011, and in accordance with the bylaws, will automatically become Vice-President for 2012.

Election of 2012 Secretary/Treasurer
Cowin Knowles and Ben Schoettker have submitted letters of intent to run for the post of Secretary/Treasurer of MCBA.

Election of 2012 Board of Directors
The following MCBA members have submitted letters of intent to run for the three open positions for Directors for 2012—2015:

James Eubank    Nick Jones
Tamika Miller    Karen Chambless Phillips

Louis Calligas is currently serving as President of the Young Lawyers Section, and in accordance with the bylaws, will automatically remain as the seventh member of the Board of Directors.

For reservations please call the MCBA office no later than January 20, 2012 at 265-4793 or email Dot Robinson at dotrobinson@mc-ala.org.
Annual Meeting Recognitions and Remembrances

As is the tradition of the MCBA, those attorneys who will be celebrating fifty years of licensure as attorneys will be recognized. Our records indicate that the following attorneys were licensed in 1962: Richard A. Ball, Jr.; William I. Hill, II; John F. Andrews; Jerome D. Smith. If you are aware of other Montgomery attorneys who should be recognized for the fifty-year milestone, please contact us with their names and contact information.

MCBA will also present plaques of remembrance to the families of those attorneys who passed away in 2011. Our records indicate the following attorneys passed away in 2011: James Cameron Wesley, Woodley Clark Campbell, Sr.; Hon. Ira DeMent; Craig Alan Donley; George Pierce Howard; Alto Loftin Jackson; Robert Blake Lazenby; Cephas Knox McLaney, III; Sebrena Moten-Fortson; Thomas Drake Samford, IV; Carol Jean Smith; Tom Wright; Thomas Gray; Mark Mullins; Janice Spears Turk; Jody Booth. Please contact our office if you are aware of other local attorneys who expired in 2011.

Watch your emails for important information about upcoming CLE opportunities.

Welcome New Members!
The following attorneys joined MCBA during November and December. We are proud to have them join us.

- Blevins, Jerry—Law Office of Jerry M. Blevins
- Copeland, Susan G.—Fuller and Copeland
- Fuller, J. Doyle—Fuller and Copeland
- Fuller, Jacob A.—Fuller and Copeland
- Griffin, Audrey F.—paralegal, Maxwell AFB
- Kearley, Cynthia—Maxwell AFB
- Smith, Ashley N.—Legislative Reference Service
- Stemle, Joshua—Reynolds, Reynolds, and Duncan, LLC
- Wells, Barbara J.—Capell & Howard, P.C.
- Whitehead, Chris—Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC

We congratulate Bob Bailey, former Family Court Referee, upon his appointment to Judge in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, Montgomery County Family Court. He was sworn into office on December 28, 2011.

Please share your professional news with us. Email news to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org
Candidates for MCBA Secretary Treasurer

Cowan Knowles has been a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association since 1985 when he clerked for Judge Joseph Phelps. Since graduating from the University of Alabama Law School in 1985 he has worked with Ball, Ball, Matthews, & Novak, P.A. where his practice has focused on worker’s compensation, trucking litigation, and general civil litigation. He is a member of the Alabama and American Bar Associations, the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, DRI, Alabama Trucking Association, Trucking Insurance Defense Association, Transportation Law Association, and former member of the American Inns of Court. In previous years he was on the Board of the MCBA Young Lawyers Division. He has served on the MCBA Board of Directors since January 2011.

Benjamin Edward Schoettker was born and raised in Hollywood, FL. He obtained his degree in Business Management from the Rinker School of Business at Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Florida. Ben went on to attend Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, graduating with his J.D. in 2001. During law school, he served two terms on Jones Law Review and was employed with the firm of Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C. Upon admission to the Alabama State Bar, he accepted a position as a Deputy District Attorney in Montgomery County. In 2004 Ben became a founding member of Barfoot & Schoettker, L.L.C., and practices in both civil and criminal litigation. His civil practice focuses on Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, and Fraud, while his criminal practice focuses on representing clients charged with felony and misdemeanor offenses. He has served on the MCBA Board of Directors for three years.

Candidates for MCBA Board of Directors

James Brinhurst Eubank was born and raised in Mountain Brook, Alabama where he graduated from Mountain Brook High School as a National Merit Commended Student. He then attended the University of Alabama where he was awarded a B.A. in History. He stayed at the University of Alabama to achieve his J.D. While in law school he volunteered with the Tuscaloosa County Probate Court and helped build homes with Tuscaloosa Habitat for Humanity. Also while in law school, James met his wife, Laura. They were married the week after his graduation in May 2007. With Laura, James moved to Montgomery that same year, and shortly after arriving began a clerkship with Presiding Circuit Judge Charles N. Price. Since July of 2009 he has worked as a Deputy District Attorney for Montgomery County. While there he has prosecuted over 500 felony cases and also works in the civil forfeiture division where he has helped acquire over $60,000 worth of seized currency, vehicles, firearms and controlled substances. James is currently serving as a board member for the Montgomery County Young Lawyers Section where he helped organize the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and Charity Auction in 2011. James enjoys fly fishing and fly tying and is a member of American Mensa Ltd.
Candidates for MCBA Board of Directors continued

Nicholas A. Jones grew up in Elmore County, Alabama and graduated from Holtville High School in 1998. He attended Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama and Auburn University at Montgomery majoring in Political Science and English. While at Auburn University at Montgomery, he worked with Dr. Donald Bogie at the Center for Demographic Research and published multiple works involving demographics in the State of Alabama. After graduating in the top percentile of his class from Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, Nick served in the United States Army as an enlisted member of the JAG Corps. In law school he focused his study on family and criminal law, which are the areas in which he primarily serves as an attorney. He is a member of the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyer’s Association and is involved with the Hugh Maddox Inns of Court. Nick serves as a mentor with the Juvenile Court in Montgomery County.

Karen P. Chambless Phillips was raised in Montgomery and graduated from Auburn University. She was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1990 following her graduation from the Jones School of Law. She was employed thereafter as a law clerk in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama until 1991 when she entered private practice. She also took a position as an adjunct professor with Faulkner University, a position which she held through the end of 1992. Karen has conducted a comprehensive domestic relations and family law practice, and she is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Middle District of Alabama and all state courts of Alabama. She currently is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources. She serves on the Advisory Board for Success by 6 early childhood education program through the Family Guidance Center. She is a former editor of The Docket; a former member of the Children’s Justice Task Force, a past faculty member of ABICLE, and a recurring faculty member for the National Business Institute. Her volunteer activities include Aid to Inmate Mothers and the American Red Cross. She has served on the MCBA Board for six years.

Tamika R. Miller is a native of Orlando, FL. She is an honor graduate of Florida A&M University with a B.A. degree in Political Science and is a 2010 graduate of Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. Tamika was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 2010. Upon graduation, she served as the clerk to the Honorable Judge Charles Price while serving pro bono clients through the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program. Ms. Miller was previously employed with the law firms of Vonda K. Bonham in Selma, Alabama and C.F. Brock & Associates in Austell, GA. While in law school she clerked for the Hon. Judge A. Kelli Wise for the Alabama Criminal Court of Appeals, served as the Editor-in-Chief for the Jones Corner, a monthly column in The Docket. She was also President of the Ernestine S. Sapp chapter of the Black Law Students Association and served in many other roles within that organization. Tamika is now a partner in the Relf Miller, LLC (formerly Relf Law Office, LLC) and works primarily in the practice areas of criminal defense, civil litigation, worker’s compensation, bankruptcy, and estate planning. Ms. Miller currently serves as a board member for the March of Dimes-Central chapter and is still a volunteer lawyer for the Alabama Volunteer Lawyers Program.

Karen P. Chambless Phillips was raised in Montgomery and graduated from Auburn University. She was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in 1990 following her graduation from the Jones School of Law. She was employed thereafter as a law clerk in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Alabama until 1991 when she entered private practice. She also took a position as an adjunct professor with Faulkner University, a position which she held through the end of 1992. Karen has conducted a comprehensive domestic relations and family law practice, and she is admitted to the U.S. District Courts for the Middle District of Alabama and all state courts of Alabama. She currently is an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alabama Department of Human Resources. She serves on the Advisory Board for Success by 6 early childhood education program through the Family Guidance Center. She is a former editor of The Docket; a former member of the Children’s Justice Task Force, a past faculty member of ABICLE, and a recurring faculty member for the National Business Institute. Her volunteer activities include Aid to Inmate Mothers and the American Red Cross. She has served on the MCBA Board for six years.
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participation in Pro Bono Week, the VLP program and free legal clinics for citizens who need legal assistance but cannot afford it. Finally, MCBA's annual Christmas party donated toys and gift cards to Toys for Tots to benefit underprivileged children. MCBA served and will continue to serve its membership and our citizens who need it most. Finally, I congratulate Mike Winter on being elected President of our bar for 2012. Mike is a great person and attorney. I have no doubt that Mike will lead MCBA into a successful 2012 and I know that the best is yet to come. Serving as President is challenging but that challenge is best met by a group of dedicated individuals united to achieve the same goals. If Mike receives even half of the support I received, MCBA will continue to grow and prosper as an outstanding organization. I pledge my support to Mike and I hope you will as well. I wish Mike and our entire membership a prosperous 2012.

Kendall Dunson

On December 15, the MCBA membership showed up for the best holiday party yet at Wynlakes Country Club. Two-hundred fifty members and guests enjoyed the delicious finger food buffet and beverage bars as The Fountain City Players entertained with their extensive repertoire of music. Before the night was over the dance floor was full as folks did the Electric Slide and other steps requiring a great deal of coordination. The generosity of the members towards the Toys for Tots drive seems to grow annually, and the U.S. Marines were there to accept the gifts.

Jerry Bloodsworth connects with members of the U.S. Marine Corps who were on hand to accept the Toys for Tots donations.

Right: MCBA President Kendall Dunson and his wife Samarria display some of the items given to the Toys for Tots drive.
It was a family affair for sisters, Sammaria Dunson and Lloria James. Pictured L-R: Billy Young, Chuck James, Lloria James, Sammaria Dunson, and Kendall Dunson.

Darron Hendley and Renee Teek make a striking pose as they enjoy the party.

Above, several Assistant District Attorneys gather and celebrate.

Right: Newlyweds Kevin and Karen (Chambless) Phillips. Congratulations!
Special note to MCBA members:

Invoices for 2012 membership dues have been mailed. If you have not received your invoice, please contact Dot Robinson at 265-4793 (8:00-1:00 M-F) or at dotrobinson@mc-ala.org. Payment is due by January 31, 2012. Most government employees were billed individually, while members of firms were billed collectively.