THE MCBA MARCHES FORWARD

The Montgomery County Bar Association’s year has begun with a series of successful initiatives! This is due to the vision and the energy of our Board and our Executive Director.

Please notice and appreciate the names to the left of my column: Kendall Dunson, David Martin, Ben Schoettker, Royal Dumas, James Eubank, Rhon Jones, Cowin Knowles, Karen Chambless Phillips, Jayne Harrell Williams, Suzanne Duffey, and Louis Calligas. When you see any of these leaders, please thank them for their devotion of talent, time, and hard work to the MCBA.

Your Board is already working very hard to achieve our objectives of a larger and better Volunteer Lawyer Program, a Mentoring Initiative, more and better social events, more community service, and more recognition for our best members. To succeed, we very much need you to help. Please call me at 263-5787, or E-Mail me at MikeWinter@WinterLegal.net, and tell me which of these goals most interests you.

Our Annual Meeting was a big success. This month, consistent with the unanimous votes of our Board in December, and our membership in January, we are adding three additional Board Members. This will enable the MCBA to do even more for all of us.

If you are interested in serving, please E-Mail Suzanne at Suzanneduffey@mcala.org. Please include a 1-page declaration of candidacy, plus your most important qualifications and your goals as a Board member. The deadline is March 8, 2012. Suzanne will then E-Mail all of these to our Board. We will elect these new leaders at our March meeting.

Please consider whom you want to nominate for our first Attorney-of-the-Year Award. The form for this honor, developed by Vice-President David Martin and his Committee, was in our January Docket, and is in this issue, also.

Mike Winter

MCBA President
Mike Winter
I am proud to announce that the Montgomery County Bar Association’s Pro Bono Civil Clinic celebrated its two year anniversary in November 2011. Over the past two years, the Clinic has seen several hundred clients, and provided assistance with domestic issues, landlord/tenant issues, contract issues, and any other possible scenario. I am also proud to say that over 60 lawyers have donated their time at the Clinic. Due to the assistance of our partners, Montgomery Communication Action Agency and Legal Services of Alabama, I believe the Clinic has become a valuable and needed asset in Montgomery County. Although there have been numerous issues and clients the Clinic has helped, I would like to take this time to single out a recent client and the aid the Clinic provided.

In September 2011, Ms. X was at her apartment with her children. Unexpectedly, there was a knock at the door. Ms. X’s son answered the door and was immediately attacked by an unidentified stranger. Fortunately, Ms. X’s son was not seriously injured. Soon after, Ms. X’s landlord served her with a notice of eviction. This eviction occurred despite Ms. X’s prompt payment of rents and all fees and dues for the last four years.

Not knowing what to do and fearing homelessness, Ms. X came to the next Clinic. After a review of her lease, her volunteer lawyer realized that the landlord had no viable grounds for evicting Ms. X. Not content with simply giving this advice, the volunteer lawyer agreed to take on Ms. X’s case and represent her at the upcoming eviction hearing. Once the landlord’s attorney was presented with clear evidence Ms. X had not violated the lease and was in fact a model tenant, the eviction was dismissed.

In all, the volunteering lawyer probably spent three hours on Ms. X’s case. In the end, Ms. X was able to receive a just and expeditious resolution to her legal issues. I am certain that without the legal clinic or similar legal services, Ms. X would have been evicted from her apartment.

It is easy to overlook how a small amount of time on our part can resolve for what many believe are insurmountable problems. I see this every month in our Clinic. I invite all to donate their time to the Clinic and I am proud to be a small part of a bar association which works to help so many on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

Royal Dumas,
MCBA Pro Bono Coordinator

CLE OFFERINGS

3/9  10:30-12:00
Alabama D.U.I. Laws—Patrick Mahaney

4/13  11:00-12:00
Preserving the Record in Criminal Cases for Appeal—Chris East
(former staff attorney with Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals)

5/10  10:00-12:00
First Amendment Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses—Col. John Eidsmoe (Foundation for Moral Law)

Unless otherwise noted, CLE seminars are held in the Jury Assembly Room of the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Please pre-register by calling 265-4793 or by emailing Dot Robinson dotrobinson@mc-ala.org

There is no cost for MCBA members to attend the above CLE’s.
Jose Baez, Defense Attorney for Casey Anthony, Speaks in City

Mr. Jose Baez, Florida criminal defense lawyer best known for his zealous representation of Casey Anthony, visited Montgomery, Alabama on Saturday, February 18, 2012 to speak to law students from Faulkner University’s Thomas Goode Jones School of Law.

The speaker was invited by the school’s Student Bar Association (SBA) to aptly address the topic of “Overcoming Adversity in Your Capital Defense Practice.” Associate Dean of Student Services, Anita Hamlett, commented on the students’ choice, “Obviously, criminal defense law is not a perfect fit for many lawyers, but there is a need for lawyers who are willing to defend the rights of those accused of heinous crimes. Our students are privileged to have the opportunity to ask Mr. Baez the hard questions that many Americans want to ask right now.” Two local defense attorneys, Bill Blanchard and Jeff Duffey, were in attendance and met Mr. Baez. Having represented some unpopular criminal defendants during their careers, both attorneys felt that this was a valuable experience for students of the law.

Mr. Baez was the keynote speaker at the SBA’s Barrister’s Ball held this year at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery. This annual event allows students to celebrate the successes of the academic year, recognize the staff and faculty member of the year and invite a recognizable member of the legal profession to present the keynote address. Erin Brockovich and Ken Starr have both presented keynote addresses at this ball in the past.

Article written by Anita Kimbrell Hamlett, Associate Dean of Student Service, Jones School of Law

Pictured left to right: Attorneys Bill Broome, Bill Blanchard, guest speaker Jose Baez, and Jeff Duffey.

Legal Professionals Week

MALS, the Association for Legal Professionals, cordially invites you to join in our Legal Professionals week to be held during the week of March 20-24, 2012.

Tuesday, March 20: MALS Membership Drive, sponsored by Bains and Associates, to be held at the RSA Activity Center from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This is a great time for you to come and bring members of your legal staff to see what MALS is all about and what the organization can do for your firm. We will be giving away door prizes and goody bags.

Wednesday, March 21: Coffee with the Judges, hosted by Judge Charles Price and sponsored by Bains and Associates, to be held in the Jury Assembly Room of the courthouse from 7:30 a.m. until...

Thursday, March 22: MALS Award Luncheon will be held at the RSA Activity Center at 12:00 noon. Please watch your email and mailboxes for your invitations and remember to R.S.V.P.

This program is made possible through a grant from the NALS Foundation.

(Don’t forget to honor your Legal Professionals Support Staff!)
The Montgomery County Bar Association
Award for Service and Achievement

The MCBA Award for Service and Achievement annually recognizes a Montgomery Lawyer who has distinguished him or herself through service to the bar and the community. The Award honors a lawyer who demonstrates the highest standard of professionalism and is respected by his or her peers for their outstanding legal ability.

Nominee: ______________________________

Nominating Attorney: ____________________________

Name ____________________ Phone Number __________

Description of Nominee’s Qualifications for Award:

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

Deadline for Nominations: March 14, 2012

Mail Nominations to: Suzanne Duffey  
c/o Montgomery County Bar Association  
P.O Box 72  
Montgomery, AL 36104
MCBA Member News

MCBA welcomes these new members:

Angela Taylor Baker—Butler, Snow, O’Mara, Stevens, & Cannada, PLLC
Billy L. Carter—The Law Offices of Carter and Knight
Christy O. Edwards—Alabama Department of Revenue
Winston Edwards—Slaten Law, P.C.
L. Bailey Jackson—Wilson and Jackson, LLC
Kelley A. Gillikin—Alabama Department of Revenue
A. Bradley Smelser—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
Chad E. Stewart—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
Matthew P. Teague—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.

Rhon Jones was named Litigator of the Year 2011 at Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C. The annual recognition is presented to the attorney who demonstrates exceptional professional skill and best represents the firm’s ideal of helping those who need it most. Rhon has been at Beasley Allen since 1994.

Beasley Allen also named a lawyer of the year for each of its sections for 2011. Honorees were: Labarron Boone, personal injury; Clay Barnett, fraud; Navan Ward, mass torts; Chris Glover, product liability, and Christopher Boutwell, toxic torts.
TRIVIA CONTEST

1. Who was the 1st President to sign a federal law that included an individual mandate? (Tiebreaker: What was the name of the law, and the year that it was signed?)

2. Who was the first Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court?

3. How many times has the U.S. Constitution been amended (easy)?

4. How many times has the current Alabama Constitution been amended (much harder)?

5. Name 4 Montgomery attorneys who have served as President of the Alabama State Bar.

(Please E-Mail your answers to MikeWinter@WinterLegal.net. The winner will receive a prize of both symbolic and monetary value)

ANSWERS TO FEBRUARY’S CONTEST

1. William Douglas was born in both Maine (city) and Minnesota (state).

2. The U.S. Supreme Court originally had 8 Justices.

3. 2 current Alabama Supreme Court Justices were appointed (Chief Justice Chuck Malone and Jim Main).

4. John Godbold, of Montgomery, served as the Chief Judge for the 5th, and then the 11th, Circuit Court of Appeals. He was probably the greatest Supreme Court Justice that the United States never had.

Congratulations to Bill Roberts for being the first to correctly answer the trivia questions in the February Docket.