Thanks to the hard work of your Officers and Board, the Montgomery County Bar Association has begun achieving the first tangible progress in our goals to establish a much better and larger Volunteer Lawyer Program, more social events, a new mentoring program, and more recognition for our best and brightest members. Next month’s Docket will announce at least 4 specific pieces of progress in the above areas.

In recognition of this season of Passover and Easter, the universal celebration of freedom and our need to take advantage of the opportunities that God has blessed us with, I cite two very different leaders:

Colonel C.E. Wheat, the long-time Professor and Chaplain at West Point, authored their Cadet Prayer. This prayer states, in part, “…(S)trengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clear thinking…Make us to choose the harder right over the easier wrong...(to) scorn...vice and injustice and (to) know...no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy...and (to) soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer…”.

St. Francis of Assisi famously wrote, in part, “Make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope...(G)rant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand...For it is giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.”

Mike Winter
The MCBA Young Lawyer Section Social on February 29 at Roux in Old Cloverdale was a big success. I would like to thank everyone who attended, and would especially like to thank Freedom Court Reporting for sponsoring the event and Roux for hosting. The next YLS Social will take place on Thursday, April 26, 2012 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Exchange Bar at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Montgomery. The social will be sponsored by Haislip, Ragan, Green, Starkie & Watson, P.C. Please make plans to attend and encourage other young lawyers to attend as well. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. After the social, we encourage all YLS members to walk over to the Riverwalk Stadium for the Biscuits game.

The YLS encourages all of its members, if they have not done so already, to sign up for the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program. To help facilitate that process, VLP enrollment forms will be available at every YLS social and event this year. As stated on the ASB website, “Just a few hours of your time can make a world of difference for you, for your profession, and for the community.” In addition to the VLP, we are working on other pro bono projects for YLS members in 2012. Please look for more information on those projects in the coming months.

Finally, the YLS benefits tremendously from your input, attendance, and most importantly, your involvement. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact any of the YLS officers, specifically: YLS President, Louis Calligas (lcalligas@balch.com) YLS Vice President Allen Sheehan (was@chlaw.com) or YLS Secretary/Treasurer, Will Cunningham (wrc@chlaw.com). If you are a YLS member and do not receive YLS email notices, please contact Will Cunningham to ensure that you are on our email list.

The MCBA is pleased to welcome these new members:

- **Timothy Chinaris**—Faulkner University/Jones School of Law
- **Col. John Eidsmoe**—Foundation for Moral Law
- **Kristi Fuller**—The Hamilton Law Firm
- **Anita Hamlett**—Faulkner University/Jones School of Law

Congratulations to Allen Howell, Director of Career Services and Public Interest, Jones School of Law, and his wife upon the birth of their daughter, Harper Caroline on 2/23/12.

**Vonda S. McLeod** has opened her new office at 4131 Carmichael Road. She specializes in Debt Relief.

Congratulations to **Tray Richardson** (Law Offices of Aimee Smith Cobb) and his wife upon the birth of their daughter, Emilia Elizabeth.
Changes Coming for AlaFile

According to a memo from Eric Anderson at the AOC, there some changes coming in the AlaFile access password policy. If you have any questions about this change, please contact Eric Anderson at 334-954-5044 or email him at eric.anderson@alacourt.gov.

“In order to improve the security of our account and better secure confidential information that will be available to attorneys of record in a confidential case, all AlaFile users will soon be required to reset their AlaFile password. Please consider the following criteria in selecting your AlaFile password once the notification to update your password is received:

- All passwords for AlaFile must be at least 12 characters long. Each password must contain at least one character from all four of the following categories:
  * English uppercase characters (A-Z)
  * English lowercase characters (A-Z)
  * Numeric digits (0-9)
  * Non-alphabetic characters (for example: !, $, #, %)
- Passwords cannot contain your email address (username) as part of them.
- Passwords less than the above stated requirements will not be accepted.
- The new password is case sensitive; it is highly recommended that your password not contain any words, birthdates, or highly guessable combinations.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE DO NOT share your password with anyone unless you are sure that they understand the confidential nature of the files you may be accessing. We (AOC) are working on new policies that will allow confidential file access online; password security is an essential element of any confidential file access.

Notification to change passwords will be sent to all AlaFile users at least fourteen (14) days before the change will be required.

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 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 email your answers to MikeWinter@WinterLegal.net. The winner will receive a prize of both symbolic and monetary value.
Applying AAJC statistics to Montgomery County’s population, the actual number of low-income residents who had at least one legal problem during last year could safely be estimated in the thousands, if not tens of thousands.

So Braves fans, we are now at the All-Star break. Like the Braves of last year, things are looking good. We have more lawyers than ever involved in Pro Bono, the MCBA Pro Bono Clinic has been running for two-and-a-half years. In addition, other clinics that will reach clients who live in poverty are in the works.

That said, let’s avoid a meltdown. To help us through the 2012 season, the MCBA needs your help in two areas. First, the MCBA has set a goal of 50% participation in VLP by years end. To meet this goal, we need around a hundred lawyers. Signing up is easy. Just go to http://www.alabar.org/members/vlp_enroll.cfm and fill out the form.

Your participation in VLP is limited to two cases a year with a commitment of less than 20 hours. Second, we are reforming the MCBA Pro Bono Committee. If you would like to be considered, please forward Suzanne Duffey an email at SuzanneDuffey@mc-ala.org.

I am looking forward to a great year on the Pro Bono front. Go Braves!

Moot Court Judges Needed

The Board of Advocates at Faulkner University, Jones School of Law is preparing for the Annual 1L Moot Court Competition. They need a lot of judges this year. Listed below are the days, time slots and location in which we need judges below. Having great judges is what really makes competitions like these a success. Please email Joy Lane at joyleighlane@gmail.com if you are interested in judging a round or two! Your help will be greatly appreciated!

**Thursday April 19th - Law School**
Session 1 5:15 - 7pm
Session 2 6:45pm- 8:30pm

**Friday April 20th - Law School**
Session 1 5:15 - 7pm
Session 2 6:45pm- 8:30pm

**Saturday April 21st - Supreme Court Building**
We do not have times for these rounds yet, but there will be two sessions, one lasting an hour and 45 minutes and the other lasting an hour and a half)

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**Administrative Professionals’ Day**

**April 25th**

Be sure to express your appreciation to your office staff for all the work they do to help you be a success!
I admit it: I am an Atlanta Braves fan. I feel it is an injustice that the Baseball Hall of Fame voters repeatedly failed to induct Dale Murphy into Cooperstown. I smile every time I watch Sid Bream limp around third and complete the slowest scoring play sequence in the history of MLB (and probably T-Ball) to beat the Pirates and send the Braves to the World Series. I would prefer never to see a picture of Charlie Leibrandt, as I am reminded of the go ahead home runs he gave up in consecutive World Series Game Sixes. I cannot even discuss the meltdown of last year.

Recently, a simple chart highlighting Volunteer Lawyer activity reminded me of my affinity for the Braves. The chart (reproduced below) by Linda Lund and Tom Methvin highlighted Volunteer Lawyer activity over the last few years in Montgomery County and three of our similarly situated sister counties.

I am thrilled to see that almost 150 lawyers have signed up for the Montgomery program over the last few years. At the present, we have a participation rate of 41% from all Montgomery County lawyers who are eligible to be members of the VLP program. This is no small feat. It is directly attributable to your gracious donation of time and energy. This rate puts us on par with Birmingham and Madison Counties, but well behind Mobile County. This is the Sid Bream portion of the analogy.

As for the Leibrandt part of the story, right now 43,350 Montgomery County residents (a little under 20% of our population) live in poverty. A recent study sponsored by the Alabama Access to Justice Commission found that 48% of low income households had at least one legal problem during that year. I will admit I am no actuary and am unable to determine household size and other variables, but I think I can safely say that the number of people who needed legal help was higher than the 202 Montgomery County residents who received help through the VLP last year.

(VLP continued p. 4)
Montgomery County Bar Association

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Montgomery, AL 36101-0072

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

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS

APPRECIATION DAY—APRIL 25

No matter how you say it, express your thanks to your staff!

CLE OPPORTUNITIES

No charge to MCBA members unless otherwise stated. $50 per hr. fee for non-members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC/SPEAKER(S)</th>
<th>CREDIT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>Preserving the Record in Criminal Cases for Appeal— Chris East</td>
<td>1 hr.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Screening of the movie and panel discussion afterward with former Alabama Chief</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Justice Sonny Hornsby and film producer Susan Saladoff</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Free to MCBA members, but you must RSVP to <a href="mailto:Kitty@hawthorneandmyers.com">Kitty@hawthorneandmyers.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Family Law Update 2012– Karen C. Phillips; Will O'Rear</td>
<td>2 hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/10</td>
<td>10:00-12:00</td>
<td>First Amendment Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses– Col John Eidsmoe</td>
<td>2 hr.</td>
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Unless otherwise indicated, the programs will be presented in the Jury Assembly Room, 3rd floor of the Montgomery County Phelps-Price Judicial Center, 251 S. Lawrence St.

Please pre-register by email to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or by phone 265-4793.