I promised “4 specific pieces of progress” in last month’s issue of our Docket. Thanks to the very good and hard work by or leadership, I can report that we have achieved 12 significant goals in terms of our 5 objectives of substantially improving our organization in general; and a vastly better Volunteer Lawyer Program (VLP), more networking through social events and CLE programs, more recognition for our best members and more mentoring in particular.

These 12 achievements are:

1. Our Board has chosen Felicia Long, Larry Golston, and Roianne Conner to fill the new Board slots that we added. All three are extremely well-qualified, as were the other 12 candidates, each of whom has an impressive reputation as a distinguished lawyer and an admirable leader.

2. We will soon file the necessary forms (Thanks to Jim Pool of Maynard, Cooper, & Gale) to establish a Montgomery County Bar Foundation with 501(c)(3) status. This will enable us to be more self-sufficient, and to raise the necessary monies, tax-free, to implement our enhanced Volunteer Lawyer Program.

3. We have laid the foundation (literally and figuratively) to increase the number of our fellow citizens that the VLP rescues from 200 in 2011 to more than 300 in 2012. This will enable us to pass Huntsville as one of the top 3 VLPs in Alabama. If you have a potential client who lacks the money to hire you, please refer them to Linda Lund at the Alabama State Bar (269-1515) for our VLP.

4. We plan to hire a full-time VLP Director for our new Foundation this year.

5. Thanks to our VLP Jedi Masters (Tom Methvin, Royal Dumas, and Linda Lund), we hosted a very successful clinic for homeless people at St. Jude on Saturday, April 28th, along with our regularly monthly clinic on May 1st.

6. The MCBA will host a great CLE on Monday, May 21st “Doing Well by Doing Good.” Ed Wayland, perhaps the foremost Alabama authority on successfully fighting predators who use the debt collection process against indigent citizens will teach. Those who attend will learn how to win these cases when the VLP client is the defendant—and then how to win a secondary case against these predators— which will enable them to win money damages for these clients (and contingency fees for their lawyer). This program will take place on Monday, May 21 from 12:00-1:30 in Courtroom 2-A. The MCBA will provide food. Please RSVP as soon as possible, as spaces will fill fast.

(continued on page 2)
**YLS News**

The MCBA Young Lawyers Section is proud to announce that this year’s Annual Golf Tournament will not only be a tournament benefiting Brantwood Children’s Home, but it will be in association with Brantwood. “The Brantwood Children’s Home Annual Golf Tournament in association wit the MCBA Young Lawyers Section” will be held at Wynlakes Country Club on July 30th. We are planning to have two tee times and many extras available for the participants. There are many details to follow, so please be watching The Docket for more information, but if you would like to go ahead and get involved or reserve your spot as a player or sponsor, contact Kyle D. Weidman with the Vance Law Firm at 334-270-8033. This golf tournament promises to be the largest and most beneficial golf tournament ever for Brantwood, and the YLS will be needing your support to make this a huge success.

*Louis Calligas, President YLS*

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**May it Please the Bar, continued from p.1**

7. Cowin Knowles is organizing a Spring Party for later this month, or early June. Watch your e-mail for these details soon.

8. Col. John Eidsmoe, perhaps our nation’s leading authority on First Amendment Establishment/Free Exercise jurisprudence, will lead a CLE from 10:00-12:00 on Thursday, May 10th. Please RSVP soon.

9. I have appointed Melissa Issak to head a new committee which will pair volunteer female MCBA members with new/young female lawyers so that these experienced attorneys can mentor protégés in the most effective manner to be happy, successful, and respected in a legal environment that is much improved, but not yet where it needs to be.

10. The City of Montgomery has invited the MCBA, for the first time ever, to participate in the selection process for filling a judicial vacancy. I appointed a special committee, chaired by Immediate Past President, Kendall Dunson which met on May 4th, and made recommendations following the tragic and untimely death of Municipal Court Judge Karen Knight.

11. Thanks to the creative leadership of Felicia Long, our Annual MCBA Fundraiser for 2012 will be a mystery dinner theater which will include audience participation. It will feature several Montgomery attorneys. We are grateful to Samarria Dunson, who is again soliciting items for the silent and live auctions. Melissa Isaak has recruited a Hollywood producer to help make this an outstanding event. Watch for details for this autumn event!

12. We have chosen our first Attorney of the Year. Stay tuned for the details of when we will announce the honoree.

Pictured: Mike Winter, MCBA 2012 President
VLP CORNER

by Royal Dumas

I hope you all are enjoying the heart of spring. It is a beautiful and, at least for me, a busy portion of the year.

Against this backdrop, the MCBA, in association with the Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyer Program, provided lawyers and legal consultation at the River Regions Connects Clinic. This clinic was an event organized by the Mid-Alabama Coalition on homelessness which brings together a variety of social service agencies and volunteers to the homeless community in the River Region. Other service providers included the Public Service Department, Safe Place, Montgomery Career Center and others. In all, over 25 people were seen by our lawyers and staff. I would like to thank Mike Winter, Winston Sheehan, Andrew Skier, Matthew Shaddrix, Clinton Graves, Tim Gallagher, Melissa Isaak, and Brandon Stone for donating their expertise and a Saturday for this worthwhile cause.

I would also like to congratulate Flynn Mozingo, Tim Gallagher, Allen Howell, Jeff Baker, and Cooper Shattuck on their appointment to the Alabama State Bar Pro Bono Task Force. This Task Force is the driving force behind numerous pro bono initiatives and events which culminate in the celebration of Pro Bono Week October 21-27, 2012.

As always, the MCBA Pro Bono Clinic meets the first Tuesday of every month. This month Tom Methvin, Melissa Bowman, and Ashley Penhale volunteered their services. The schedule for the remainder of the year is currently being created. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at rdumas@hillhillcarter.com.

Finally, I would like to make a pitch for all domestic and bankruptcy lawyers to consider signing up for the Alabama State Bar VLP. There are many clients in our area who go without representation in these critical areas because no lawyers are available. By volunteering you merely agree to take, at the most, two cases and commit twenty hours of your time. Please help us provide to those who, as of now, are turned away. To sign up, contact Linda Lund at linda.lund@alabar.org.
Congratulations to the following local attorneys elected to serve on the Alabama State Bar Board of Bar Commissioners: LaBarron Boone, Lee Copeland, Jeffery Duffey, Flynn Mozingo, Les Pittman, Cole Portis, and Frank Wilson.

Congratulations to Alison Douillard and Ray Hawthorne upon the occasion of their marriage. Alison is a staff attorney at Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C. Ray is the son of MCBA member Corky Hawthorne.

Congratulations to Derek Meek and John Mooresmith for being recognized by Alabama Super Lawyers. Both attorneys are partners in Burr & Forman, LLP.

We welcome new members, Stephanie Stephens (Beasley Allen) and Bart Spung.

Guardian Ad Litem Training Schedule

The Administrative Office of the Courts will conduct initial certification courses for attorneys wishing to be certified as guardians ad litem in juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights cases on Wednesday, August 15 at the Heflin Torbert Judicial Building here in Montgomery, 8:45-4:30. In addition, the AOC will conduct 2-hr. recertification courses in Montgomery on Thursday, August 16, 9:45-12:15 and again Thursday, December 6, 9:45-12:15. Registration for the courses must be completed online at Http://conferences.alacourt.gov. The registration fee can paid by credit card or mailing a check prior to the course date. A $25.00 late fee will be charged on-site if payment is not received prior to the course. No on-site registration will be allowed.

The 2012 2-hour recertification course will be available online through Cumberland (http://cumberland.samford.edu/cle) and CLE Alabama (Http://clealabama.com/) in late spring. If you have any questions concerning these courses, call April Johnson at 334-954-7115 or email april.johnson@alacourt.gov.
Middle- and low-income Alabama litigants can now get legal help even if they cannot afford to pay a lawyer to handle the entire matter.

New rules approved by the Alabama Supreme Court and drafted by a committee of the Alabama State Bar will facilitate “limited scope representation,” which means allowing lawyers to handle part of a case -- drafting a pleading, reviewing an agreement or attending one specific hearing -- rather than the entire matter. Under the new rules, lawyers can help a client with one aspect of a case even if they cannot afford to have a lawyer handle the whole case.

State Bar President James R. Pratt, III, Birmingham (Hare Wynn Newell & Newton LLP) said, “The state Supreme Court’s approval of amended court rules to allow limited scope representation in civil matters is part of the legal profession’s drive, in collaboration with the courts, to clear obstacles to legal representation and make legal help more affordable for middle- and low-income Alabamians.”

Limited scope representation allowed under these rules can take on many different forms, such as providing limited advice as to court procedures and what a client can expect in a court case, preparation of pleadings, preparation or coaching for specific hearings, review of pleadings and/or settlement agreements, and appearing in certain specific hearings for a limited purpose. The practice of limited scope representation is viewed positively as a new opportunity to allow more consumers to avail themselves of important, albeit limited, legal assistance in on-going litigation. The process benefits clients, attorneys and the courts.

Pratt emphasized that not every type of matter will lend itself to using the limited scope rules.

He cited several examples of how limited scope representation could be employed by a client to reduce costs:

- You can just consult a lawyer and get legal information and advice about your case when you need it;
- You can hire the lawyer to represent you on certain issues or hearing in your case (such as child support and/or custody) while you do the rest yourself;
- You can hire the lawyer to prepare the forms and other court documentation but file them yourself and represent yourself at the hearings;
- You can hire the lawyer to coach you on how to represent yourself at the court hearings and help in the preparation of evidence that you will present in court; or
- You can hire the lawyer to help you with the more complicated parts of your case, such as discovery and legal research, while you do the simpler tasks yourself.

According to the American Bar Association, more than 41 states have adopted limited scope representation rules. Pratt said the new rules permit solo and small firm practitioners, who comprise 66% of the state bar’s membership, to provide legal services to people who could not otherwise afford it and might never have sought such assistance.

The 17,000-member Alabama State Bar is dedicated to promoting the professional responsibility, competence and satisfaction of its members, improving the administration of justice and increasing public understanding and respect for the law.

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**CLE OPPORTUNITIES**  —  register at dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or 265-4793

**DATE**  |  **TIME**  |  **TOPIC/SPEAKER**  |  **CREDIT**
---|---|---|---
5/10  | 10:00-12:00  |  First Amendment Establishment and Free Exercise Clauses/ Col John Eidsmoe  |  2.0
   |  | (This seminar will take place in the Jury Assembly Room, Montgomery County Courthouse.)
5/21  | 12:00-1:30  |  Doing Well by Doing Good: How to Win Cases and Contingency Fees by Helping Indigent Debtor Defendants/ Ed Wayland  |  1.5
   |  | (This seminar will take place in Courtroom 2-A. Space is limited. You must pre-register!)
Take Good Care of Yourself

May is the month for officially recognizing and/or celebrating 42 different causes in the United States. Of course, we want to honor our mothers on May 13th for Mothers Day, and our veterans and military service personnel who died for our freedom on Memorial Day, May 28th.

Did you know that there are several health related causes recognized this month? To name a few:

- High Blood Pressure Month
- Mental Health Month
- Employee Health and Fitness Month
- American Stroke Month
- National Women’s Health Week, May 13-19
- National Senior Health & Fitness Day, May 30
- World No Tobacco Day, May 31

Perhaps this will serve as a reminder to get your checkup, get more exercise, change some unhealthy habits, or just be kinder to yourself.