NO JUNE SWOON

By Mike Winter, MCBA President

Summer may have arrived, at least unofficially, but this will not be a vacation time for the Montgomery County Bar. Gas prices are actually falling, but our MCBA’s plans are rising.

First, I want to thank Ed Wayland for leading a great CLE last month. Ed, the foremost authority in Alabama on representing indigents being sued for alleged debts, explained how he has pioneered his practice of frequently being able to win these cases — and then sue these debt collectors. In Phase 1, he is able to regularly win the dismissal of that case. In Phase 2, Ed is able to regularly win damages for these individuals, and a contingency fee for himself, by proving that these predators have violated federal law (and sometimes state law, as well). If you missed this event, you missed a really eloquent and effective program. Unlike the classic proverb about opportunity, this CLE will not be one that only comes once. I strongly urge anyone who is interested in helping liberate these deserving citizens from this burden, plus boosting their own income, to take advantage of his next CLE.

Once trained, I hope that most of us will participate both in the MCBA’s VLP program in general, and some special events that we are planning for this purpose in particular. Thanks to our Vice-President, David Martin, for recruiting First Baptist Church to join the VLP.

Thanks to many people, including our own Cowin Knowles, Louis Calligas, and our sponsor, Greg Collett of Discover-E Partners: the MCBA is hosting a Spring Social at the Pine Bar on June 20th at 5:00 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided.

Felicia Long, our great Chairman for our annual fundraiser, has been meeting with her committee in addition to doing a tremendous amount of work herself. This year’s event will feature a new and exciting location, outstanding food and drinks, interesting items for our live and silent auctions — and a short play starring many members. Felicia has tentatively set this event, whose beneficiary is our Central Alabama Red Cross Chapter, for October 25th.

If you are interested in being involved in Melissa Isaak’s Mentoring Program for Women, either as a mentor or as a young female lawyer who would like to have a contact point for

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As announced last month, we are looking forward to our upcoming golf tournament in association with Brantwood Children’s Home. “The Brantwood Children’s Home Annual Golf Tournament in Association with the MCBA Young Lawyers Section” will take place on Monday, July 30, 2012 at Wynlakes Country Club. We encourage all MCBA lawyers (young and older) to participate in this event and be a sponsor. The money raised at this golf tournament will go to benefit Brantwood. Since 1917, Brantwood has been providing a safe, stable, and structured environment for abused, neglected, or otherwise at-risk children. The YLS will need everyone’s support to help make this a huge success. We will be sending out more information via email in the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you would like to get involved or become a sponsor, please contact Kyle D. Weidman with The Vance Law Firm at 334.270.8033.
VLP CORNER by Royal Dumas

While it is only June, plans for the Alabama State Bar’s celebration of Pro Bono Week, which will occur Oct. 21-27, 2012 is gearing up. Alabama first celebrated Pro Bono Week in 2009. Since then and largely through the efforts of local bars like ours, Alabama’s activities have been widely recognized as one of the most effective and comprehensive in the nation. In Montgomery County alone we have created a civil clinic, held VLP lawyer drives, and held pro bono related CLEs. The Board of Directors of the MCBA has taken the challenge to step up our efforts this year. Along this line, the MCBA has already set a goal to significantly increase VLP participation amongst our members and to award a volunteer lawyer of the year during Pro Bono Week. If you are not a member of the VLP, I invite you to sign up now. 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. The sign up process is quick and easy; all you have to do is go to www.alabar.org/members/vlp.cfm and fill out the electronic form. The process takes less than five minutes.

Also, if you would like to nominate a fellow MCBA lawyer for this year’s volunteer lawyer award, please forward me his or her name and contact information and a short statement detailing this individual’s pro bono efforts.

The MCBA Pro Bono Clinic met this month on June 5, and as always, thanks to our volunteers. This month Kimberly Waldrop and DeLesha Garrett 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.

President’s column, continued from p. 1

everything from local procedures, to meeting judges, to strategic planning, please call Suzanne Duffey, our remarkable Executive Director, at 265-4793.

Just this week, the MCBA organized 5 meetings or conference calls on these topics. As always, if you have any ideas, criticisms, or compliments, please call me at 263-5787 or e-mail me at MikeWinter@WinterLegal.net.

CLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

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<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>SPEAKERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>How Bail Bonds Work</td>
<td>Steven Story</td>
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<td>Sept. 14</td>
<td>8:30-12:30</td>
<td>Taking Care of Senior Citizens – An Elder Law Seminar</td>
<td>Bill Fuller, John Craft, Rick Heinzman, others TBA</td>
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<td>Oct. 19</td>
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<td>Wills and Probate Refresher Seminar</td>
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CLE programs are held in the Jury Assembly Room, 3rd floor of the Main Courthouse Building unless otherwise stated.

preregister: dotrobinson@mc-ala.org or 265-4793
The Montgomery County Bar Association welcomes these new members:

Grady Carden—Rogers and Carden, LLC
Mark Moody—Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals
Lindsay Ronilo—Law Office of Vickers and White, PLLC

Congratulations to April Willis McKay upon becoming a partner in Holtsford, Gilliland, Higgins, Hitson, and Howard P.C.

MCBA members Kelly Pate, Chad Bryan, and Joe Hubbard have been chosen for the Alabama State Bar 2012 Leadership Forum Class 8.

William Coleman and Frank McFadden of Capell & Howard, P.C. have been recognized by the 2012 National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals as Alabama Charter members for excellence in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

The law firm of Sasser, Sefton, Tipton, & Davis, P.C. proudly announces that Bowdy J. “Bo” Brown has joined the firm as a shareholder and the firm name has been changed to Sasser, Sefton, Brown, Tipton & Davis, P.C. Mr. Brown joins the firm’s practice sections of Bankruptcy and Creditor’s rights, Financial Services and Credit Transactions, Commercial Litigation, and Real Estate.

Congratulations to Clay Teague and his wife upon the birth of their son, William Halstead, born May 14.

We will feature our MCBA members who are listed in Alabama Super Lawyers in the July issue.