To paraphrase a classic adage, if you want something done, ask a busy person to do it.”. In this season of Chanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Diwali; I want to thank the Officers and the Directors for the Montgomery County Bar Association for all that these very busy leaders have achieved for our members this year.

We have initiated a Foundation, upgraded our VLP, begun our Women’s Law Section, expanded our CLEs, increased the number of social events, and organized a great Annual Fundraiser.

This month, the MCBA will host our annual Christmas Party on December 10th at Wynlakes from 6:30-9:30 P.M.. This should be a great event. Ron Handy, a musician of national fame, will provide the entertainment. At least as important, the MCBA will sponsor our first Christmas Party for underprivileged and/or abused children. This party will be on Saturday, December 22nd, from 12:00 Noon-2:00, at the One Place Family Justice Center. We will provide food for all, presents for these children who would otherwise not receive any, and free legal assistance through our VLP. I invite all of our members who want to participate with a gift, or food, or legal help to join us for the profound pleasure of this celebration.

As our Presiding Judge might say, “As we finish this year, and Enjoy our good works; Take pride in all that we have accomplished, Despite all of our quirks. Remember, despite the strain and the pain; to appreciate your families, friends, colleagues, and clients and -- Stay in your lane!”

Happy Chanukah! Merry Christmas!

Mike Winter
MCBA Women’s Section Established

On November 15th, 2012, the ladies of the Montgomery County Bar Association Women’s Section were treated to Networking and Necklaces party at Cronier’s Fine Jewelers. The members were allowed to try on any piece of jewelry and made their wish lists that could be sent to their significant other as a suggestion for a possible Christmas gift.

During this meeting Officers were elected to lead this new section of our association for the next year. Roianne Conner was nominated and elected as the President; Laura Eubanks as Vice President, and Connie Murray as the Secretary-Treasurer. Additionally, Felicia Long graciously agreed to chair the Charity Event for the upcoming year, as this is a project that the Women’s Section has been tasked by the incoming President, David Martin.

The Executive Committee will be meeting during the month of December, 2012 and will set the goals and meetings for the next year.

Roianne H. Conner, President

Pictured right: Roianne Conner
Pictured below left: Laura Eubanks
Pictured below right: Connie Murry

Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and peace and joy in the coming year!

Suzanne Duffey
Dot Robinson

MCBA Women’s Section
Dues are $30.00 each year
Make checks payable to MCBA with “Women’s Section” in the subject line.
The Young Lawyers held a board meeting on November 15th. At this meeting past-past President, Bill Robertson, presented Louis Calligas with a “trophy” for his work as President of the YLS. As you can see from the picture below, it is prominently displayed in his office—propped up on the corner of his desk.

The YLS appointed Brannan Reaves and Jesse Anderson as co-social chairs. They are planning a “special” social (I don’t know what that means) in January which will most likely be on the 16th, but they are still working out the details. Kyle Weidman lobbied hard for it to be held at Johnny Zips Lounge, but he was overruled. Will Cunningham will send out multiple emails once the social is finalized.

Reed Williams volunteered to chair the Young Lawyers’ Charity Event which in the past has been a golf tournament during the summer.

Both John Marsh and Alison Hawthorne were ecstatic to learn that even though they were absent from the meeting, they were still highly regarded enough by the members present to be unanimously elected to revise the Young Lawyers bylaws. Alison Hawthorne was also elected to be in charge of new member relations, specifically encouraging students at Jones School of Law to join the County Bar as student members. In unrelated news, Alison has vowed she will never miss another meeting.

I hope everyone has a happy holiday season. The Young Lawyers are looking forward to a great 2013 year.

Allen Sheehan, YLS President

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MCBA Holiday Gala
December 10, 6:30-9:30
Wynlakes Country Club
Contact the MCBA office to RSVP –265-4793 or
Email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org
Bring a new unwrapped toy for charity.
Why Volunteer?

Why volunteer?

It is a seemingly simple question, but also an important one, especially for those of us who enjoy the privilege of practicing law. Many of us have been blessed in numerous ways throughout our lives, and volunteering is an opportunity to express our gratitude for those blessings. Volunteering can help provide a sense of purpose and community that our professional careers may not always fully afford us. Additionally, as lawyers, we have a unique ability to offer pro bono legal service that provides access to justice to those in our community who may not otherwise be able to afford the services of an attorney. The sad reality is that many of the less fortunate members of our community may be unaware of their legal rights or without the means to hire a lawyer to zealously represent their interests. Lawyers offering pro bono legal service help level the playing field and maintain the integrity that is essential to our profession and the justice system.

These are just a few reasons why it is important for us as lawyers to volunteer a small portion of our time and energy to offer pro bono legal services to the less fortunate in our community.

As many of you know, over the past several years Royal Dumas has served as the MCBA Pro Bono Chair. I have been working closely with Royal this past year and was recently honored to take over that position. During his time as the Pro Bono Chair, Royal did an outstanding job developing and growing the pro bono opportunities and services offered in the Montgomery area. For example, Royal helped establish the monthly MCBA Pro Bono Civil Legal Clinic almost three years ago, which is held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Montgomery Community Action Agency. In the past year, a civil legal clinic at the Montgomery Salvation Army was also held for the first time. We hope to make that clinic a semiannual event.

I would like to thank Royal for his years of service as the MCBA Pro Bono Chair and congratulate him on his many accomplishments while serving in that position. I would also like to thank Mike Winter, David Martin, Linda Lund and Tom Methvin for all of their help growing pro bono service in Montgomery. It is my hope that in the coming year we can continue to develop the pro bono offerings in our community, and in particular to increase the number of local lawyers participating in the Alabama VLP and MCBA pro bono clinics.

As the holiday season approaches and we have the opportunity to reflect on and be thankful for the many blessings in our lives, I invite all of the members of the Montgomery County Bar Association to consider giving back to our community by volunteering your time and energy to support the local pro bono clinics and programs offered by the MCBA and by the Alabama VLP. For those that have not previously volunteered, I am confident you will find a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment by participating in the pro bono clinics that service the less fortunate in our community. If any of you would like to learn more about the pro bono opportunities in our area, please do not hesitate to contact me at tgallagher@sasserlawfirm.com.

I hope that everyone has a blessed holiday season!

(Note: MCBA congratulates Sim Penton who won the iPad at the VLP Kickoff Party at The Pine Bar.)

CLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MCBA MEMBERS

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LIMITED SEATING IN COURTROOM 3-A! YOU MUST PREREGISTER! Bring your iPad, iPhone, etc. with you.

To preregister, call 265-4793 or email dotrobinson@me-ala.org
MCBA MEMBERS’ NEWS

MCBA was represented by these members at the 2012 Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum: Chad Bryan (Capell and Howard, PC); Ekaterina Gill (Hyundai MMFA); Joseph Hubbard (Hubbard Coleman PC); Hamilton R. Johnson (Alabama League of Municipalities); Kelly Pate (Balch & Bingham).

William Coleman and Frank McFadden (Capell and Howard PC) were inducted into the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals—Alabama State Chapter.

Tom Methvin (Beasley, Allen, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, PC) received the Volunteer Lawyers Program 2012 Pro Bono Awards at The Alabama State Bar Annual Meeting.

Susan Tudor Crowther, Associate General Counsel with the Alabama Department of Education, had an article, “Hot for Teacher: When Good Teachers Go Bad”, published in Inquiry & Analysis, the publication of the National School Board Association.

Capell & Howard PC welcomed Clinton Richardson as an associate attorney in November. His practice will concentrate on civil litigation.

Congratulations to William Kirkland and wife, Michelle, upon the birth of a daughter, Elissa Faith, born Oct. 19.

MCBA is pleased to welcome these new members:

Phillip Allen Sellers, II—Rushton, Stakeley, Johnston, & Garret
Connie Morrow—CJ Morrow, Carraway, Baker Law LLC
Mary Margaret (Meg) Fiedler—AL Appellate Courts
Preston Presley—The Law Office of Roianne Conner
Michael Perry—Susan James and Associates
Elizabeth J. Lyerly—Gilpin Givhan
Alan Polson—The Law Office of Richard Dean
Joseph Van Zandt—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
Charles James—The Cochran Firm
Lloria James—Montgomery Municipal Court
Reid Stickland—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
Amanda Cook—Beasley, Allen, Crow, Methvin, Portis, and Miles, P.C.
Nicholas Wallace—Law Office of Richard Keith

Notice to all MCBA Members:

Your invoices for 2013 MCBA Membership Dues have been mailed. If you have not received your invoice by December 10, please contact Dot Robinson and be sure we have the current mail address for you.

Email to dotrobinson@mc-ala.org.
Please pay dues by January 31, 2013.

If you are in a firm, one invoice was sent to the firm. Most state employees will receive individual invoices since some agencies do not pay dues. Call 265-4793 between 8:00-1:00 if you have questions.
2012 was a year of extremes. The United States experienced the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. The financial industry, which was responsible for many of the nation's woes, was bailed out by the American taxpayer. At the same time, the United States also witnessed the rise of the Tea Party movement, which challenged the status quo and demanded fiscal responsibility.

Our first honoree is Susan James. She stood out more this year than President Obama’s ears and Mitt Romney's offshore bank accounts. Susan is nothing if not determined. This Annie Oakley of the Courtroom considers the denial of her motions, or the overruling of her objections, merely the starting point for discussion. Armed with the support of her sons, one who rides the rodeo circuit and another who rides shotgun for her during trials, Susan believes she can persuade most judges, and all jurors, of most anything. Susan started the year by retrying the bingo case in federal court. Her winning performance, both in the courtroom and before the cameras, attracted more groupies than a Rihanna concert.

For her next act, Susan (as Joe Biden would say, “literally”) risked life and limb by arranging the surrender of the man accused of shooting Auburn football players. Walking through the valley of the shadow of rooftop, law enforcement snipers, Susan personally, and safely, delivered her client into the hands of Art Baylor, the Middle District’s Matt Dillon. Then, without taking a bow – or so much as a breath – Susan, along with Joe Espy and Jeff Duffey, represented Siegelman in his re-sentencing – demonstrating that even the best lawyering does not always yield deserved results.

But Susan remained undaunted. Demonstrating that her prior bravery was not entirely a product of temporary insanity, this (might as well be a) U.S. Marshall arranged the surrender of another fugitive, this one accused of invading the home of State Rep. Jay Love’s mother-in-law. And, to the great and good fortune of the criminally accused throughout Alabama, Susan continues to lean forward – winning some cases, and losing a few others, but always with verve and audacity. This mix of Dale Evans (Roy Rogers’ wife) and Gloria Allred richly deserves recognition as Montgomery’s Co-Most Distinguishable Lawyer for 2012.

Our second honoree is actually two people. They are, in alphabetical order, Judge Delores Boyd and Judge Vanzetta Penn McPherson, and what they have in common is mostly uncommon. They are inseparable. That they are not sisters is an accident of birth. Their devotion to one another is both personal (Delores is the godmother of Van's now fully grown medical doctor child) and professional. In business, they created a magnificent cultural bookstore, and in that endeavor, among many other accomplishments, they (together) introduced their dear friend, Jock Smith, to Johnny Cochran. (Unfortunately, the rest of that story is history.) They served (remarkably well) as federal judges, for several years together, and even departed those positions, of course, together. They are each other's biggest supporters in all of life's joys and sorrows. And, they share common traits. Each is of regal bearing, and each is a person of eloquence, both spoken and written. And, most importantly for our purposes, each is entirely distinguishable.

During this year, Delores, who has written a beautiful book with Solomon Seay about his life and career, roasted Ellen Brooks at a charity fundraiser and toasted Judge Myron Thompson at a Jones Law School event. She also served our State on the Board of the...
Ala. Dept. of Archives and History, our community on the Board of the Family Sunshine Center (invoking her inner-Serena by chairing a tennis-based fundraiser), and our profession specifically as a mediator and more generally as a role model to young(er) lawyers. Vanzetta this year has written serious, but amazingly entertaining, newspaper columns. In one, she accused certain legislators of having abandoned the “cerebral cortex as a resource for proposing legislation”. She also dueled with Julian over the very old Whitehurst case and resigned noisily (and correctly) from the Alabama Public Television Foundation. As the coup de grace, she engaged in verbal fisticuffs with Alvin Holmes over the appropriate name of the Bertha Williams/Rosa Parks library, jumped the Republican Party’s effort to suppress voting, and gave a farewell kick in the fanny to the Montgomery School Board’s departing president. As an avid reader of the judge’s column, my abiding impression is that if you’re afraid to spit in the wind and mess around with Jim, you probably also don’t want to annoy Van. If you accidentally do, quickly hire Delores to beg your pardons.

But beyond their high profile ways and multitude of accomplishments, it is what Delores and Van have together that makes them this year’s Co-Most Distinguishable. They have what we all want, a friend. They have each other.

Now, sit back with a cold Bud, or a warm-hearted buddy, and honor those among us who in this 13th year of the new millennium have achieved the pinnacle of their careers. They have, for this year, been entirely and indisputably Distinguishable.

1. “Winter Wonderland” Award - - Mike Winter, David Martin, Ben Schoettker, Kendall Dunson, Louis Calligas, Roianne Conner, Royal Dumas, James Eubank, Larry Golston, Rhon Jones, Cowin Knowles, Felicia Long, Karen Phillips, and Jayne Williams, (Mike and his wonderful, hard working cabinet, along with Exec. Dir. Suzanne Duffey, have made our Bar a Wonderland this year.)

2. “The New Republicans” Award - - Aimee Cobb Smith, Florence Cauthen and Mike Martin (They obviously cannot win in a Democratic primary.)

3. “Tifsanity” Award - - Tiffany McCord (Her landslide victory for Circuit Clerk suggests Linsanity type popularity.)

4. “Man of the House” Award - - Joe Hubbard (Joe’s our man in the Ala. House, but gerrymandering may put him in the outhouse.)

5. “Class Warfare” Award - - David Martin (As the president-elect of our Bar, David has pledged to restore the Bush era dues cuts - except for the wealthiest lawyers, e.g., Beasley, who David will ensure pay their fair share.)

6. “Todd Akin Legitimate Rape” Award - - Carrie Gray (Carrie was honored by One Place Family Justice Ctr. for prosecuting cases of violence against women.)

7. “Monty Hall’s Let’s Make a Deal” Award - - James Anderson (In representing Nancy Worley, James negotiated the deal of the year - 5 felonies and 4 misdemeanors dropped in exchange for plea to one misdemeanor and a $100 fine.)

8. “John D. Rockefeller Monopoly” Award - - John Henig and Floyd Minor (They seem to get more of the big divorce cases than normal market forces suggest they should.)

9. “Dos Equis” Award – Judge Myron Thompson, Shannon Holliday, Mark Sabel, Bryan Stevenson, Ben Espy, Judge Johnny Hardwick, Julian McPhillips, Jere Beasley, Dave Boyd, Judge Delores Boyd, Tommy Gallion, David Bronner, Andy Birchfield, McDowell Crook, and Morris Dees (They are the most interesting men - and women - in the world.)

10. “Johnny Cash Ring of Fire” Award - - Kenny Thomas (He went in-house with ASU this year, jumping into the firestorm arising out of President Silver’s allegations of contractual improprieties at the University.)

11. “Silver Lining” Award - - Dennis Bailey and Robert Ward (The silver lining for President Silver, who is having as yet undisclosed issues with his job, is that he has these two excellent lawyers representing him.)
12. “I Second That (E)motion” Award - - Judge Tracy McCooey (A letter published in the Advertiser beautifully described the judge’s life of service as one all public officials in every branch of Govt should emulate.)

13. “Dirty Dancing” Award - - Bob Martin (In defending the ABC Bd’s ban on “Dirty Bastard” beer, Bob danced around the fact that the Bd permits the sale of wine called “Fat Bastard” and beer called “Raging Bitch” – the Bd later, hopefully on Bob’s recommendation, reversed its ban.)

14. “Village People” Award - - Will Sellers and Felicia Long (Will was the YMCA’s reigning Man of the Year last December, and Felicia was just named (wo)Man of the Year this December.)

15. “Ghost of Christmas Past” Award - - Chief Justice Roy Moore (Let the haunting begin!)

16. “Murder Incorporated” Award - - Troy Massey (He murdered his opponent for District Court Judge in cold blood and started a funeral home to dispose of the body.)

17. “Warren Buffett Rule” Award - -Kenny Mendelsohn and Mays Jemison (They’re making so much money from a Whistleblower lawsuit that, like Buffett, they’re happy, or at least willing, to pay higher taxes.)

18. “Waiting to Exhale” Award - - George Beck (After disrupting his practice waiting on his appointment as US Atty, George can continue his excellent service - thanks to the president’s re-election.)

19. “This Little Light of Mine” Award - - Sue Bell Cobb (It may be time to break out the theme song – she should be thinking of a run for Governor.)

20. “Charlie Brown Why’s Everybody Always Picking (On) Me” Award - - Morris Dees (Must be something he did - - Picked for the prestigious and rarely awarded ABA Medal for exceptionally distinguished service in “moving our country case by case toward tolerance and equality”.)

21. “Tammany Hall” Award - - Bobby Poundstone (As president of the Auburn Alumni Assn, Bobby was among the smoke filled, backroom group who selected nominees for the Auburn Bd of Trustees.)

22. “Hurricane Sandy” Award - - Martha Roby (She stormed past her re-election competition and has the eye of her storm trained on congressional leadership positions.)

23. “A Life Less Ordinary” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (In leading EJI, he argues before the US S Ct; he represents people - some of them innocent - on death row; he challenges wrongful conduct in prisons; he teaches Law School; and he gives inspiring talks around the country – all in all, an extraordinary life.)

24. “Selma, Lord, Selma” Award - - John Neiman (John will represent the State before the US S Ct in a pending constitutional challenge to the Voting Rights Act passed in large measure because of events in Selma.)

25. “Standing, Lord, Standing” Award - - Margaret Fleming, Jim Davis, Misty Fairbanks Messick, Will Parker and Win Sinclair (These excellent constitutional defense lawyers in the AG’s office always, and often successfully, attack plaintiffs’ standing.)

26. “Lee, Lord, Lee” Award - - Bill Patty and Jayne Williams (After Lee High School’s entire faculty was terminated or transferred, Bill sued for transferred teachers who feel they should be given a hearing to defend their reputations – Jayne disagrees.)

27. “Bed of Roses” Award - - Kim Thomas (He’s risen from Correctional Officer to General Counsel to Commissioner of Ala’s prisons, but between the Equal Justice Initiative, the ACLU, and a bunch of problems, his job is no bed of roses.)
28. “E.F. Hutton” Award - Ellen Brooks, Judge Anita Kelly, and Tiffany McCord (Each was named among Montgomery’s 30 Top Women of Influence – when they talk, people listen.)

29. “Riley’s Raiders” Award - Lee Copeland, Frank Hawthorne, and Buster Russell (They’ve all been spotted at Hospice’s Monte Carlo night - the unlikely excuse that they were just trying to help sick people will not fly.)

30. “Mrs. Tiger Woods” Award - Randy Myers and Frank Hawthorne (Their client threatened someone with whom he lived in close proximity with a golf club.)

31. “Mrs. David Petraeus” Award - Dickie Ball (Both of their spouses resigned from good jobs – Dickie’s was exec dir of the Montgomery Ballet – but for very different reasons.)

32. “Prime Time Players” Award - Jim Byram, Wendell Cauley, Jim Edwards, Jimmy Garrett, Richard Gill, John Henig, Bill Hopkins, Kyle Johnson, Tommy Keene, Dan Lindsey, Joe McCorkle, Frank McFadden, Tabor Novak, Leigh O’Dell, Chris Simmons, Fred Tyson, and Gibson Vance (According to the “Best Lawyers” publication, they are each Montgomery Lawyer of the Year for 2013 in a designated category.)

33. “Dr. Phil” Award - Philip Butler (When this Dr. Phil represents you, you feel much better in the morning.)

34. “Fox and Friends” Award - Peck Fox (He has lots of friends.)

35. “Body Heat” Award - Mark Moody (Mark and his wife, who is an aerobics instructor, work out together, or they should.)

36. “I’m Definitely Comfortable In My Own Skin” Award - George Beck, Steve Feaga, Alex Holtsford, Les Hayes, Julie Beasley, Susan Kennedy, Dean Mooty, Flynn Mozingo, Tabor Novak, Brooke Reid, and Tommy Keene (They exude confidence – just like the folks in the Dove commercial.)

37. “Top Chef” Award - Stephanie McGee Azar, Gunter Guy, Kim Thomas, Jim Reddoch, and Luther Strange (As the heads of Major Departments of State Govt, these lawyers cook up recipes for serving our citizens, and do it with a limited family budget.)

38. “(Actual) Top Chef” Award – Ben Espy (If you think this gourmet chef is mean in court, you’d best stay out of his kitchen.)

39. “Jimmy Carter” Award - Tom Methvin (Inspired by Jimmy Carter’s post-presidency humanitarian efforts, Tom has continued since his presidency to support pro bono legal services, inspiring his firm to win the State Bar’s Volunteer Lawyer Pro Bono Award.)

40. “Call of the Wild” Award - Julian McPhillips, Judge Jimmy Pool, Will Sellers and Justice Tom Parker (They attended the wild Nat’l Conventions of their respective parties – you can guess who went to which convention.)

41. “Zookeeper” Award - Riley Roby, Phil Butler, Mike Jackson, Ham Wilson, John Henig, William Martin, Mitch Henry, Pat Sefton, Tommy Keene, David Henderson, Bobo Gilpin, Joe Espy, and Charlie Anderson, (They manage the wild life in their respective law firms.)

42. “A Guide for the Married Man” Award - Melissa Isaak (She guides married men, and only men, through divorce proceedings.)

43. “The Beauty and the Beast” Award - Connie Walker, Misha Whitman, Erika Tatum, Aimee Cobb Smith, Vernetta Perkins, Joana Ellis, Kelly Pate, and Alice Ann Byrne (They are beauties outside the courtroom and beasts in the courtroom.)
44. “Bloody Mary” Award - - Mary Bauer, Mary Golthwaite, Mary Oliver, and Mary Pat Crook (In a lawsuit, they can make you bleed.)

45. “Most Intelligent Lawyer” Award - - Shannon Holliday, John Neiman, Christine Freeman, Bryan Stevenson, Bill Messer, Susan Copeland, Frank Wilson, Austin Huffaker, and Mark Sabel

46. “Nicest Lawyer” Award - - Al Agricola, Elizabeth Spear, Jim Rives, Emily Marks, Chip Nix, Dana Billingsley, and Amanda Carter

47. “Most Popular Lawyer” Award - - Judge Charles Price (As difficult as it is sometimes to recall, Judges are also lawyers.)

48. “Friendliest Lawyer” Award - - Lee Copeland, Shawn Cole, Dixie Torbert, Mark Bain, and Kelly Pate

49. “Wittiest Lawyer” Award - - Will Sellers, Allen Sheehan, Royal Dumas, Helen Wells, Jamie Johnston and Kim Fehl

50. “Most (Sincerely) Religious Lawyer” Award - - Randy Thomas, David Martin, and Tom Kotouc

51. “Best Courtroom Lawyer For His Age” Award - - Jere Beasley

52. “Best Courtroom Lawyer For Anybody’s Age” Award - - Jere Beasley

53. “Best All-Around Lawyer” Award - - Joe Espy (Excellent in civil and criminal cases and in both bench and jury trials)

54. “Best Personality (for a Lawyer)” Award - - Tommy Gallion, Joshua Segall, Jo Claudia Moore, Yvonne Saxon, Debby Spain, Sandra Lewis, and Liz Carter

55. AMost Excitable Lawyer ® Award - - Ben Espy (In his excitement at a recent trial, Ben did a little jig at the podium before asking his first question.)

56. “Paul Ryan Most Fiscally Responsible” Award - - Ben Schoettker (We’re hoping it’s Ben – he served this year as treasurer of the Montgomery County Bar Association.)

57. “Best Performance By A Criminal Lawyer” Award - - Ron Wise, Jeff Duffey and Tommy Goggans (Each received an Award of Merit from the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers Assn for outstanding success in criminal cases this year.)

58. “Best Montgomery Circuit Court Judge” Award - - Judges Charles Price, Gene Reese, Tracy McCooey, Johnny Hardwick, Billy Shashy, Truman Hobbs, Jr., Anita Kelly, Calvin Williams, and Bob Bailey (Think I’m crazy??)

59. “Best Montgomery District Court Judge” Award - - Judges Pam Higgins, Jimmy Pool, Sharon Yates, and (I’m sure) Troy Massey (Ditto)

60. “Best Overall Judge” Award - - Judge Myron Thompson (In the country)
61. “Best Teacher of Legal Writing” Award - - Joi Montiel and Ashley Hamlett

62. “Most Entertaining Legal Writing” Award - - Judge Ed Carnes (In a case where an off duty cop injured a naked guy she found in her daughter’s closet, Judge Carnes wrote that the defendant’s alleged “treatment of [the plaintiff] was badder than old King Kong and meaner than a junkyard dog”.)

63. “Most Promising New Assist. Attorney General” Award - - Kasdin Miller

64. “Most Promising Relatively New Assist. AG” Award - - Andrew Brasher (He cheated by clerking for Judge Bill Pryor and practicing at Bradley Arant before coming to the AG’s office.)

65. “Assist AG With Most Fulfilled Promise” Award - - Brenda Smith

66. “Dearly Departed (Assistant AG)” Award - - Prim Escalona and Stephanie Reiland (They are the most talented Assistant Attorneys General who left the office this year.)

67. “Hail to the Chiefs” Award - - Judges Joel Dubina, Ed Carnes, Keith Watkins, and Mark Fuller (Judge Watkins replaced Judge Fuller as presiding judge of the Middle District, and Judge Carnes likely will replace Judge Dubina as chief of the 11th Circuit.)

68. “Ham Sandwich” Award - - Ham Wilson (Despite his excellent work, last year’s redistricting of the County Commission gave Ham roughly the same chance for re-election as a Ham sandwich.)

69. “Mrs. Brown, You’ve Got a Lovely Daughter” Award - - Kathy Brown, Shirley Brown, and Erin Stark Brown (They’re lovely.)

70. “True Grit” Award - - Mike Winter (His persistent pursuit of leadership resulted in his ascendancy to the presidency of our Bar, and all of us benefitted from his hard, excellent work.)

71. “The Importance of Being Ernest” Award - - Frank Woodson and Wray Smith (Apparently not very important to them – “Ernest” is their first name, but they’ve chosen to be called by their middle names.)

72. “Jack Nicholson As Good As It Gets” Award - - Inge Hill (Inge has always been as good a community servant as there is - this year being recognized as Volunteer of the Year for the Family Sunshine Center.)

73. “A Streetcar Named Desire” Award - - John Kachelman, David Vickers and Richard White (They all believed deeply in their positions as John prosecuted and David and Richard defended an emotional “self defense” murder case - closing arguments were impassioned – hung jury.)

74. “You will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger” Award - - Joana Ellis (All of those defense lawyers at the Ala. Defense Lawyers Assn, which Joana runs, are tall, dark, handsome – and strange.)

75. “Bonanza” Award - - Schuyler and Bill Espy (They named their new baby boy “Joe” – he’ll be known forever as Little Joe – so, their next baby will have to be named “Hoss”.)

76. “Stephen Spielberg” Award - - Felicia Long (Produced and Directed a Play for the Bar’s Charity event.)

77. “Andrew” Award - - Justice Kelli Wise, Judge Charlie Price, Joe Espy, Bill Blanchard, Geri Cronier Braun, Kim Fehl and Julian McPhillips (Received the Bar's more formal version of the Tony Award for starring performances in the Bar’s Charity Play - Broadway likely is not next.)
78. “Most Versatile” Lawyer - - Mark Franco (He plays Della Street to his own Perry Mason. For you YLS lawyers, that means he serves as his own secretary.)

79. “Ben Affleck” Award - - Knox Argo (Ben Affleck named his new move, “Argo” after Knox.)

80. “Carpe Diem” Award - - Doyle and Jacob Fuller (Big verdict in a bad house case, Doyle carried Jacob’s brief case, and Jacob seized the day.)

81. “Killing Them Softly” Award - - Winston Sheehan, Chip Nix, William Haynes, Archie Grubb and Von Memory (They are soft spoken in the courtroom, but deadly.)

82. “Final Destination” Award - - John Neiman (As Alabama’s Solicitor General, John already has argued several cases before the Law’s final destination, the U.S. Supreme Court – but at his young age, he’s got further to go.)

83. “Kofi Annan” Award - - Randy James and Lee Copeland (They are this year’s most sought after peacemakers, i.e., Mediators.)

84. “Paradise Lost” Award - - Baron Coleman (Baron led a tough, no Stone unturned campaign against Gordon Stone's mayoral re-election bid in Pike Road - demonstrating that no honeymoon lasts forever.)

85. “The Honeymoon is Over” Award - - Don Valeska and Andrew Arrington (When a judge tossed Don and Andrew’s Australian honeymoon murder case after the State rested, it was the first dismissal of Don’s 41 year career – Don’s honeymoon with the judiciary lasted 40 years longer than mine.)

86. “Two and a Half Men” Award - - Navan Ward and Bobby Poundstone (Our State Bar is more than well represented in having Navan and Bobby as our delegates to the American Bar Assn House of Delegates.)

87. “Best Performance By a Federal Defender” Award - - Don Bethel (Won an acquittal on a felony charge against an intoxicated woman who ran over a military policeman’s foot at Fort Rucker)

88. “Ernie Banks Let’s Play Two” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (Bryan argued two cases before the US Supreme Court on the same day – and won both – the State can’t mandate life without parole for a juvenile.)

89. “To the Victor” Award - - Dorman Walker (Republicans won control of the Alabama Legislature in 2010, and this year Dorman helped them receive the spoils by drawing and defending new lines for legislative districts.)

90. “I Want To Hold Your Hand” Award - - Ellen Brooks (Her commitment to helping people was recognized this year by the Sunrise Rotary Club and by a thorough roasting delivered by Daryl Bailey, Lewis Gillis and Delores Boyd.)

91. “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do” Award - - Kenny Thomas, Tyrone Means and Lewis Gillis (They broke up this year after having been partners for 30 years.)

92. “American Horror Story” Award - - Brandon Essig and Monica Stump (The horror is that we have street gangs operating in Montgomery, but Brandon and Monica won convictions in federal court for the Bloods’ commission of a series of violent crimes.)

93. “Something Borrowed” Award - - Clark Morris (Heading up US Attorney’s effort to wipe out tax preparers who borrowed – or stole – their victims’ identities to commit tax fraud.)
94. “Elementary My Dear Watson” Award - Andy Schiff, Gray Borden, Scott Green, John Kachelman and Daryl Bailey (Their aim as prosecutors is to keep things simple.)

95. “The Color Purple” Award - Tray Richardson (This deeply red conservative turned sufficiently independent, i.e., purple, to support a Democrat, Aimee Cobb Smith, for District Judge.)

96. “Blue in the Face” Award - Judge Mark Kennedy (He's done a great job as chair of the State Blue Party.)

97. “Red in the Face” Award - Will Sellers (He's Mr. Red Party in Montgomery - or he ought to be.)

98. “Ex-lax” Award - Dennis Bailey (He represents a major Regulator in the banking industry in a big lawsuit filed this year.)

99. “Julie & Julian” Award- - Julie Weller and Julian McPhillips (Doesn't have the same ring as “Julie and Julia”, but still an odd and interesting combination)

100. “Fred Gray Bus Ride To Justice” Award - Linda Lund, Flynn Mozingo, Royal Dumas, Brent Hargett and Tim Gallagher (They, and others, rode the Volunteer Lawyers' Justice Bus to provide free legal services to folks in underserved areas.)

101. “Barack Obama President-Elect” Award - David Martin (David and President Obama will begin their new terms at approximately the same time.)

102. “Joe Biden Veep-Elect” Award - Ben Schoettker

103. “Secretary of Labor” Award - Alexia Borden, Schuyler Espy, Anne Adams Hill, and Brooke Emfinger Reid (They managed labor and had a baby this year, or very close to this year.)

104. “Under Secretary of Labor” Award - Gray Borden, Bill Espy, Jarred Kaplan, J.B. Perrine, Nicholas Jones and Tray Richardson (They assisted in the management of labor and contributed minutely to the birth of a baby this year, or very close to this year.)

105. “Secretary of Commerce” Award - Alan Rothfeder, Jim Edwards, Bobo Gilpin, Jeff Blitz, Helen Wells, Kyle Johnson, Tommy Mancuso, Michael Fritz, William Martin, James Dickens, Mark Franco, Von Memory, Inge Hill (And other great business lawyers)

106. “Secretary of Defense” Award - Tabor Novak, Tommy Keene, Mike Beers, James Anderson, Chad Morriss, Jimmy Williams, Mike Jackson, Roger Morrow, Randall Morgan, Craig Dillard, Pat Sefton, Alex Holtsford, Charlie Anderson, Mitch Henry (And other great, well experienced defense lawyers)

107. “Secretary of the Treasury” Award - Stan Gregory and Wendell Cauley (Among other things, Stan and Wendell are great public finance lawyers.)

108. “Secretary of Homeland Security” Award - Jimmy Walter (He’s suing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for not paying our homeland counties the fees they owe for recording security instruments.)

109. “Secretary of the Interior” Award - Bobby Segall (He’s a real Indoorsman)
110. “Secretary of State” Award - - (former) Justice Jean Brown and Julie Sinclair (They actually represent Alabama’s Secretary of State.)

111. “Commissioner of Social Security Administration” Award - - Micki Beth Stiller (She knows enough about Social Security to be the Commissioner.)

112. “Cutest Couple of (Married) Lawyers” Award - - Carrie and Tim McCollum, Monet and JR Gaines, Geri and Michael Braun, Schuyler and Bill Espy, Laura and James Eubank, Kyle and Stephanie Shirley, Jenny and John Hagood, Alexia and Gray Borden, and Quin and Joshua Segall

113. “Cutest (Married) Couple Of Lawyers (With Different Last Names)” Award – Pat Ivey and Bob Varley, Sabrina Comer and Clint Daughtrey, Mary Goldthwaite and Dudley Perry, Kelli Wise and Arthur Ray, and Mary Bauer and Ed Wayland.

114. “Cutest Couple of (bi-city) Lawyers” Award - - Sady (Mtgy) and Jacob (Bham) Mauldin, Lloria (Selma-Mtgy) and Chuck (Tuskegee-Mtgy) James, and Valerie (Tuskegee) and Russ (Mtgy) Russell

115. “Cutest Couple of (Father-Son) Lawyers” Award - - Wayne and Mark Sabel, Greg and Evan Allen, Dennis and Evans Bailey, Doyle and Jacob Fuller, James and Jesse Anderson, Bill and Evans Brittain, Richard and Nelson Gill, and Frank and Frank Hawthorne.

116. “Prince Charming” Award – Ben Schaefer, Mays Jemison, Jimmy Fry, Mitch Henry, Joe Espy, Josh James, Archie Grubb, Matt Mathews, Chuck Stewart, Mark Bain, Rob Reynolds, Kendall Dunson, Judges Truman Hobbs, Lee Copeland, Ben Espy, Paul Esco, Red Bell, Randy Thomas, Flynn Mozingo, Ray Warren, and Terry Davis (They are charming men.)

117. “The Mighty Quinn” Award -- Quin Segall (And other lawyer/mothers who do it all.)

118. “Chief Justice Roberts Split the Baby” Award - - John Olszewski, Judy Barganier, Josh James, Mark Montiel, Terry Luck, Dixie Torbert, Larry Sasser, Ben Pool, Melissa Isaac, Katie Steinwinder, Nick Jones, John Henig, and Floyd Minor (Part of their work in Domestic Court is to split custody and time with the baby.)

119. “Final Justice” Award - - Justices Tommy Bryan, Jim Main, Tom Parker, Greg Shaw and Kelli Wise (Final justice is meted out by our Supreme Court, including 5 justices who are members of our Montgomery Bar.)

120. “Pain in the A_ _” Award - - Royal Dumas (His first name usually precedes the Award bestowed upon him today.)

121. “Growth Industry” Award - - Richard Cohen (As President of the So. Poverty Law Center, Richard announced that the Law Ctr is continuing to expand its work across the nation.)

122. “Sweet Charity” Award - - John Albritton, Greg Allen, Jere Beasley, Morris Dees, Judge Joel Dubina, Inge Hill, Judge Truman Hobbs, Judge Gene Reese, Forrest McConnell, Tom Methvin, Charlie Stakely, and Frank Wilson (They’re the most generous lawyer contributors to United Way.)

123. “Oligarchy” Award - - Allen Sheehan and Will Cunningham (Recently elected as president and vice president, these two Capell Howard lawyers have usurped all power in the Young Lawyers Section of the Mtgy Bar.)

124. “Judge Not, Lest Ye Be Judged (by your children)” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Jr., Saxon Main, Emily Marks, Ben Al-
125. “Thank You For Being a Friend” Award – Rick Neal (Hyundai General Counsel thanked Montgomery, saying the support all levels of government have provided should be a model for the country.)

126. “Reality Show” Award - - Justice Kelli Wise (This real S Ct. Justice was presiding judge for 8th grade mock trials held in the S Ct. courtroom.)

127. “Do These People Ever Sleep” Award - - Justice Kelli Wise and Felicia Long (In addition to their jobs and a ton of community service, Justice Wise hosted a brunch for past queens, and Felicia hosted a breakfast for this year’s queen, of the La Fete Ball.)

128. “Ballgame” Award - - Will O’Rear (Will played - music - at the Harlequins Ball.)

129. “Stuck on You” Award - - Stephanie Reiland and Jasper Roberts, Jr. (Not married, but appear to be entirely stuck on one another)

130. “Suspicious Minds” Award - - Joe Borg and Sandra Stewart (The defense of a man they indicted for securities fraud is that he is a victim of the fraud, which he says was perpetrated by a dead woman – this Dir of the Ala. Securities Comm’n and First Assist US Attorney remain suspicious.)

131. “Early To Bed” Award - - Ron Wise (The old saying rings true with Ron – he’s early to bed, early to rise, and he’s definitely wise.)

132. “Most Wanted” Award - - Terrie Biggs (When it comes to unpleasant matters involving the State Bar, Terrie’s services are most wanted.)

133. “Billy the Kid” Award - -Louis Calligas (Went out, i.e., finished his 2 year term, as president of the young gunslinger section of the Mtgy Bar in a blaze of glory – excellent job!)

134. “Ask Not What Your Country Can Do For You” Award - - Bart Spung (Wrote an Ala. voices column saying the “Great Day of Service” should be expanded to a lifetime of service, because service is “a responsibility – a joy – of citizenship.”)

135. “Gene Stallings” Award - - Joana Ellis (She may have followed a legend into her position as Exec. Dir of the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association, but she’s now established herself as a star in her own right.)

136. “Smiley Face” Award - - Emmett Hampton, and Trina Williams (They were all smiles after winning an acquittal in a home invasion case because of a lack of evidence corroborating a cooperator’s testimony.)

137. “Nick Saban” Award - - Joe Espy (He’s the best team leader since Saban – Joe led his team to victory in the McGregor case.)

138. “Gene Chizik” Award - - Morgan Arrington, Beth Poe, Scott Green, Clay Barnett, Brittney Bucak, Nicole McArthur, Richard Dean, Ali Hawthorne, Lydia Yancey, Jacob Jeter, and Laurel Crawford (They all coached Youth Judicial teams and, unlike Coach Chizik, did very well, but the coach deserves a farewell shout-out.)

139. “For Love of the Game” Award – Walter Byars and Red Bell (Still going strong after all these years - they just love to practice law.)
140. “Strangers When We Met (Again)” Award - - Evans Bailey (Evans this year married, a woman he doubled with to his high school prom, but did not meet again for over 7 years.)

141. “Daddy Longlegs” Award - - Luther Strange (He=s our tallest constitutional officer since Big Jim – and he can play basketball.)

142. “Keys To the Kingdom” Award - - Kevin Turner, Andrew Brasher, Rosa Davis, Corey Maze, Kasdin Miller, John Neiman, Monica Sheeler, Don Valeska, and Julie Weller (Kevin is the Attorney General’s Chief Deputy, and the others help lead the office.)

143. “Taking Care of Business” Award - - Margaret Fleming, Clay Crenshaw, Noel Barnes, David Bjurberg, John Neiman, John Gibbs, Bill Garrett, Bruce Lieberman, Brenda Smith, and Matt Hart (The folks at the AG’s office who see that the legal work is high quality - Division Chiefs.)

144. “Innkeepers” Award - - Charlie Anderson, Kathy Brown, Eileen Harris, Judge Charles Coody, Carol Gerard, and Chris Weller (They are the leadership of the Hugh Maddox Inn of Court – Charlie is president.)

145. “Good Morning Vietnam” Award - - Judge Troy Massey (As a veteran of the unpopular Vietnam war, Judge Massey, on Veterans Day, described difficulties faced by soldiers returning home from tours of duty.)

146. “Cowboys & Aliens” Award - - Mary Bauer, Zayne Smith, and Sam Brooke (They continued their fight this year against Alabama’s immigration law passed by legislative cowboys who remain obsessed with undocumented aliens.)

147. “On the Shoulders of Giants” Award - - Ted Meadows, Navan Ward, Russ Abney, Danielle Mason and Matt Teague (Under Ted’s leadership, and using what they’ve learned from Jere, Greg, and other giants in their firm, they won a $72.6 million verdict in Philadelphia against Wyeth in a drug case.)

148. “Pretty (Lawyer) Woman” Award - - Aly Hawthorne, Ashley Penhale, Felicia Long, Monica Arrington, Shannon Holliday, Schuyler Espy, Jamie Kidd, Monet Gaines, Quin Segall, Mary Pat Crook, Anne Pearson, Susie Edwards, Laura Crum, Kelly Pate, Anita Archie, Alexia Borden, Julie Beasley, Alyce Addison, Kasdin Miller, Samarria Dunson, Pam Slate, Karen Laneaux, Katya Gill, and Lydia Yancey


150. “Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” Award - - Judge Jimmy Pool, Jimmy Williams, David Martin, Mays Jemison, Frank Hawthorne, Corky Hawthorne, Les Hayes, Rhon Jones, Joel Connally, Joe Seawell Moore, Gunter Guy, Clay Crenshaw, Cole Portis, Stephanie Galloway Shirley, Bobby Poundstone, Jessica Pitts, John Searcy, Matt Bledsoe, Robert Pittman, Tripp Vickers, Jacob Fuller, Mark Moody, and Frank Hawthorne, III (The sound of these Auburn fans talking about Coach Gene Chizik.)

151. “Echo” Award - - Anne Adams Hill (When Anne and her baby are introduced, it sounds like an echo: “This is Anne Adams Hill and Adams Hill.”)

152. “Failure To Launch” Award - - James and Jesse Anderson (James didn’t seek expert advice, as did Matthew McConaughey’s parents in “Failure to Launch”, but Jesse is finally moving out of James’ house and into his own home.)
153. “Three Dog Night” Award - Jo Parr (For this puppy lover, and owner of 3 dogs, every night is a 3 dog night.)

154. “50 Shades of Grey” Award - John Pickens and Craig Baab (Although not as sexy as the book, their well-meaning analysis of Amendment 4 covered 50 shades of gray.)

155. “Joe Biden Unchained” Award - Tommy Gallion, Tommy Mancuso, and Bill Espy (The Tommys and Bill will say anything to anybody at any time.)

156. “The Food Locker” Award - Shap Ashley (Serves on the Board of the Montgomery Area Food Bank.)

157. “Shakespeare High” Award - Rick Neal, Jere Beasley, Charlie Stakely, Judge Vanzetta McPherson, Billy Canary (They are on the Bd of Directors of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.)

158. “Winston Churchill” Award - Leura Canary (Leura fell while running and broke her hand - next time she feels the urge to exercise, she should, as Churchill advised, lie down until the urge passes.)

159. “Best Acting in a Leading Role” Award - Anne Elizabeth McGowin (When Cooper Shattuck bailed, Anne Elizabeth became acting legal advisor to the Governor.)

160. “Blondie” Award - John Bolton and Charlanna Spencer (Best Litigator Duo team with blondish hair.)

161. “Brunette” Award - Anthony Bush and Peyton Faulk (Best Litigator Duo team with dark hair.)

162. “Diversity” Award - Tommy Gallion and Connie Walker (Best Litigation Duo team with Gray and Red hair.)

163. “Love Story” Award - Oakley Melton (The beloved Oakley was honored by his law firm on the occasion of his 85th birthday.)

164. “Kristen Stewart Faithfulness” Award - Jimmy Garrett, Richard Garrett, Joe Espy, Richard Gill, Dickie Ball, Tabor Novak, William Martin, Bill Coleman, George Azar, Walter Byars (And other actively practicing lawyers who have been with one firm for at least forty years.)

165. “Robert Pattinson Moving On” Award – Bo Brown, Pam Slate, Kenny Thomas, and Kevin Davidson (They moved on this year to new legal positions.)

166. “Saving Grace” Award - Cole Portis and Felicia Long (They were Auburn’s saving grace this sad year - Felicia was president of, and Cole’s daughter, Skip, WON, the prestigious Jimmy Hitchcock Award, named for Auburn’s famed football hero.)

167. “Heaven Can Wait” Award - Clay Crenshaw and Mitch Henry (Although their children did not win, they received the tremendous honor of being nominated for the Jimmy Hitchcock Award – these proud fathers feel as though they’re in heaven.)

168. “Solitary Man” Award - Matthew Shaddrix, Winston Edwards, and Lane Jones (Matthew and William, experienced and out-
standing lawyers, opened solo practices this year, as did Lane – straight out of law school.)

169. “Solitary Woman” Award - - Alyce Addison and Mary Oliver (Doing well on their own.)

170. “2 Broke Girls” Award - - Sabrina Comer and Amy Gunlach (These two outstanding lawyers started their own firm from scratch this year – they won’t be broke long.)

171. “2 Rich Guys” Award - - Tyrone Means and Lewis Gillis (After their law firm split up, they affiliated with The Cochran Firm.)

172. “State of the Union” Award - - Teresa and Keith Norman, Julie and Chris Weller, Leura and Billy Canary, Linda and Don Valeska, Mary Goldthwaite and Dudley Perry, Judge Susan and Dorman Walker, Justice Kelli Wise and Judge Arthur Ray, Justice Jean and Terry Brown, and Tommie and Judge Johnny Hardwick (Relatively long lawyer unions that appear strong.)

173. “For Love or Money” Award - - Barbi Agricola, Joe Borg, Evans Bailey, Misty Fairbanks Messick, Kristin Bentley Smith, and Kevin Davidson (They either got married this year, or are about to get married, presumably for love or money.)

174. “The Right Stuff” Award - - Mark Wilkerson (He has all the skills and character a lawyer should have.)

175. “Dr. Sanjay Gupta Most Healthy Lifestyle” Award - - Cheairs Porter (Cheairs works for public health and lives for personal health, having been the fastest lawyer this year in Mtgy’s half marathon race.)

176. “Kissing Your Sister” Award - - Lewis Gillis and Vernetta Perkins (In a criminal case against a former legislator defended by Lewis and prosecuted by Vernetta, Lewis won the felony count and Vernetta the misdemeanor—on the whole, Lewis would rather kiss his sister.)

177. “At the Foot of the Cross” Award - - Lee Copeland (Well, maybe not the real Cross, but Lee is this year’s president of Mtgy’s Red Cross chapter.)

178. “Days of Thunder” Award - - Scott McArdle, Ben Espy, and Ashley Penhale (On days they are in court, they can be vocally thunderous.)

179. “Golden Girls” Award - - Julie Beasley, Leigh O’Dell, Rebecca Bryan and Leura Canary (Well-paid women lawyers.)

180. “Platinum Lady” Award - - Rosa Davis (Her long years of experience and service to the State, and her wisdom, are worth more than gold.)

181. “The Iron Lady” Award - - Judy Barganier (Her iron will doesn’t permit her to concede an inch.)

182. “Iron Man” Award - - George Azar (After 56 years of litigating, he’s still sharp and tough as nails.)

183. “Cal Ripkin” Award - - Bilee Cauley (As the first woman Reporter of Decisions in Alabama history, everyday she continues to serve establishes a new record for the longest serving woman in that position.)

184. “Great Expectations” Award - - Scott Mitchell (Given that his two immediate predecessors as Clerk of the Ct of Criminal Appeals served around 20 years each, expectations for Scott are great.)
185. “Murder She Wrote” Award - - Jeff Duffey and Susan James (They represent a doctor on a murder for hire charge that sounds like a movie starring the Critter Man as the unfortunate victim.)

186. “Two If By Sea (or Land)” Award - - Roger Morrow and Wes Romine (They’ve practiced together since 1980, and it’s difficult to think of one without the other.)

187. “Witness for the Prosecution” Award - - Landis Sexton (Landis was the named plaintiff in a McPhillips, Shinbaum lawsuit to stop the Legislature’s effort to redistrict during a special session – Judge Price dismissed.)

188. “Witness for the Defense” Award - - Terry Luck and Bill Abell (Their testimony helped convince Judge Price to set bond for a capital murder defendant in the Critter Man case.)

189. “The Good Husband” Award - - Bill McGowin (With Bill’s wife running the Finance Dept. and the Governor’s legal office, she needs a good husband, and she got one with this excellent lawyer.)

190. “Accidents Happen” Award - - Kenny Mendelsohn, Frank Hawthorne, Randy Myers, Mike Crow, Julie Beasley, Misha Whitman, Scott McArdle, William Gill, Aaron Luck, Jay Lewis, Chuck James, Michael Strickland, Graham Esdale, Larry Golston, (And other Plaintiffs’ lawyers say thank goodness!)

191. “One Direction” Award - - Barbi Agricola, Jeremy Walker, Jim Beck, Patricia Kemp, Parker Miller, Jacquelyn Tomlinson, Lindsey Clements, Aylia McKee, Chris East, Rebecca Gilliland, David Henderson, Patricia Osuch, Ashley Penhale, LaRonda Martin, Steve Ganter, Clint Richardson, Mitch Dobbs, Nicholas Jones, Joseph VanZandt, and Justin Aday (Young lawyers whose careers – like that of the popular band “One Direction” - appear headed in only one direction – up!)

192. “Confusion” Award – Andrew Brasher and Andrew Brashier (This Assist AG and Beasley Allen lawyer will be receiving one another’s mail.)

193. “Game Changer” Award - - Jimmy Fry, Debra Hansen, Eileen Harris, Larry Gardella, Carolyn Gaines-Varner, Jaffe Pickett, Robert Stroud, Joe Marston, and Melissa Bowen (This LSA management team, and the other lawyers with whom they work, dramatically change the odds of a low income person’s prevailing in civil court.)

194. “American Outdoorsman” Award - - Al Agricola (Al is the Governor’s outside man.)

195. “The Usual Suspects” Award - - Charlanna Spencer, Felicia Long, Robert Black and Ashley Penhale (Felicia and Charlanna led the Youth Judicial program and Robert and Ashley were beyond active participants – when it comes to service, these 4 are usual suspects.)

196. “College Boy” Award - - Frank Stakely (He was admitted this year to the American College of Trial Lawyers.)

197. “Distinguishable Neutrals” Award - - Bill Coleman and Frank McFadden (They were selected for membership in what has erroneously been called the National Academy of “Distinguished” Neutrals.)

198. “Lab Rats” Award - - Pat Sefton and Chuck Stewart (Pat is Alabama’s representative to, and Chuck is Chair of the Products Liability Committee of, the Defense Research Institute.)
199. “Robert Frost” Award - - Dee Miles (His philosophy on effort is always “Miles to go before I sleep.”)

200. “The Hangover” Award - - John Garner and Scott Morris (Now that the internal election war between two commissioners is over, these two excellent Administrative law Judges for the PSC are hoping there is no lasting hangover.)

201. “Eddie Patterson Leadership” Award - - Chad Bryan, Joe Hubbard, Katya Gill, Kelly Pate, Rob Johnston, and Monica Gaines (These folks, all already amazing leaders, participated in the State Bar’s Leadership Forum — a program created and nurtured by Eddie Patterson.)

202. “Man With the Golden Voice” Award - - Bryan Stevenson (When Bryan delivered a TED Talk in Long Beach, Calif., the audience donated $1.12 million.)

203. “Knock on Wood” Award - - Jerry Wood (No knock on Jerry Wood could possibly be legitimate.)

204. “Starbucks” Award - - Frank Hawthorne, Scott McArdle, Misha Whitman, Ashley Penhale, Frank Wilson, and Clayton Tatt (Hawthorne, with the help of his friends, promoted a successful showing of the controversial, but really good, film “Hot Coffee” at the Capri.)

205. “Open Door Policy” Award - Kevin Davidson and Michele Smith (When an 80 year old charged with fondling two children testified that he would never do such a thing, he opened the door for Kevin and Michele to introduce an old sexual molestation conviction – convicted again.)

206. “Charles Barkley” Award - - John Henig (Like Charles, John is Chairman of the Board – at both Baptist Health and the Montgomery Country Club.)

207. “The Beasleys” Award - - Rhon Jones, LaBarron Boone, Clay Barnett, Navan Ward, Chris Glover, and Chris Boutwell (Although not as well-known as the Espys, the Beasleys honor the firm’s “lawyers of the year” in designated categories.)

208. “Andrew Luck” Award – Greg Graves (Greg succeeded a legend, Joe Reed, at AEA, and is now, among other things, quarterbacking the delivery of legal services—Andrew Luck followed Peyton Manning in Indianapolis.)

209. “In His (and Her) Father’s Shoes” Award - - Evan Allen, Frank Hawthorne, III and Keren McElvy (They joined their fathers’ law firms this year – the fathers are Greg, Frank, Jr., and Douglas, respectively.)

210. “Good Fellas” Award - - Dennis Bailey, Julia Beasley, Doyle Fuller, Linda Lund, Cole Portis, Cooper Shattuck, Robert Ward, and Judge Keith Watkins (All named 2012 Fellows of the Alabama Law Foundation.)

211. “Dale Carnegie” Award - - Ferris Stephens (As chair of the Alabama Public Television Commission, Ferris’ employment decisions resulted in 8 resignations from the APT Foundation Bd - he may need a little help winning friends and influencing people.)

212. “Gladiator” Award - - Steve Feaga (Although he left the US Attorney’s office for the Alabama Securities Commission, Steve remains a gladiator in whatever arena he appears.)

213. “Twinkle” Award - - Louis Franklin (He is the brightest star in the US Attorney’s office.)
214. “Joe Espy” Award - - Gibson Vance  (Gibson has been selected to serve on the Bd of Trustees of his alma mater, Troy University – to equal Joe, all he must do now is bring the next Nick Saban to Troy.)

215. “The Jeffersons’ Banana Cream Pie” Award - - Chris Boutwell, Archie Grubb, Bill Hopkins, Jr., and Bill Robertson (They moved on up to shareholders in their firm – a piece of the pie.)

216. “JR. Ewing” Award - - Chad Morriss (Oil baron Chad is Assistant Chief trial lawyer for BP Oil in connection with its Gulf Coast disaster.)

217. “Life Begins at 60” Award - - Dan Harris (After a full career as an in-house lawyer for a big company, Dan won his first political race, and began his County Commissioner life at age 60 – or so.)

218. “Chasing Liberty” Award - - Richard Keith and Beau Cooper (As president of the Fed Defenders, Richard chases liberty, but for folks who lose it, Beau, as Chair of the Bd of the Mtgy Co. Community Corrections Authority, tries to provide rehabilitation.)

219. “Biting the Hand” Award - - Joe Hubbard (Wrote article in newspaper about political pressure he was receiving from one of his most natural supporters – Henry Mabry.)

220. “Terms of Endearment” Award - - Milton Westry and Lloria Munnerlyn-James (That’s what lawyers will be expressing to these two new Municipal Court Judges.)

221. “Terminix” Award - - Mark Montiel (Mark and his lawsuits pester whoever is in power – this year he asked the Alabama Supreme Court to reconsider a decision many felt gutted the state's open meetings law, and he sued to enjoin the implementation of the 2013 general fund budget.)

222. “That Thing You Do” Award - - Bill Blanchard, Patrick Mahaney, and Jeff Duffey (Bill and Patrick were honored this year for the many things they do for the Alabama Crim. Defense Lawyers Assn, and Jeff was elected president of the Assn.)

223. “New Jack City” Award - - Mike Kidd and Azzie Taylor (Mike represented, and Azzie prosecuted, a woman accused of murdering a man in a fight over a car jack - - Jury said manslaughter.)

224. “Meet the Press” Award - - Grady Carden, Keith Rodgers, Mitch Dobbs, John Kachelman, and Roianne Conner (They all received good press for their lawyer roles in the case of a 98 year old woman conned out of her life savings.)

225. “Nepotism” Award - - Shap Ashley (Shap's father founded the Montgomery Debutante Assembly Ball, and miraculously Shap has been selected to be Master of Ceremonies at the Ball—for the last 28 years.)

226. “Capitol Asset” Award - - Terry Brown (Terry wrote an Alabama Voices column arguing that our State Capitol building, which was the first Capitol of the Confederacy, belongs on the World Heritage List overseen by UNESCO — others feel its presence would Depreciate the List.)

227. “Mick Jagger” Award - - David Bronner (This rock star investment guru has endured criticisms, and has been enormously praised, for his investments in the State of Alabama.)

228. “The Over The Hill Gang” Award - - Gatewood Walden and Jerry Cruse (Gatewood, 73, and Jerry, 78, litigated themselves and Gatewood's mother, 95, into a contempt citation for which they had to report to the Autauga County jail - quickly released on bond.)
229. “Mama, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Lawyers” Award - - Ron Davenport (Ron had the unpleasant task of filing the contempt petition against the Waldens – sometimes a lawyer’s life is just too hard.)

230. “It's the Economy Stupid” Award - - Karen Laneaux (In a “Women in Business” column in which she was featured, Karen said tough economic times makes it more difficult to settle lawsuits.)

231. “Let The Sun Shine In” Award - - Betty Bobbitt Byrne, Kathy Brown, Ashley Hamlett and Jimmy McLemore (With Ashley's help, Betty Bobbitt chaired one fundraiser, and Jimmy another, for The Family Sunshine Center, on whose Board Kathy is President.)

232. “Low Down Dirty Shame” Award - - Kendall Dunson and Brooke Lawson (They serve on the Board of Child Protect – it’s a shame that such an organization, which helps investigate child abuse, is needed.)

233. “Wise Guy” Award - - Pat Harris (As Secty of the Senate, Pat made the (wise) decision not to press charges against 6 protestors arrested for blocking the walkways outside the Senate while singing “Amazing Grace” and praying for the repeal of Alabama's immigration law.)

234. “Petula Clark’s Downtown” Award - - Judges Anita Kelly, Calvin Williams and Bob Bailey (Our Domestic Relations judges are moving Downtown from Airbase Blvd.)

235. “Travon Stand Your Ground” Award - - Mike Kidd and Azzie Taylor (In arguing self defense, Mike said the law allows deadly force as a pre-emptive matter and not only under the threat of deadly force - - Azzie disagreed, and so did the jury - manslaughter.)

236. “Guilt By Association” Award - - Brian Hale and Dorothy Norwood (Pub. Health Dept. lawyer, Brian, argued successfully to Hearing Officer Dorothy that an application to reopen an abortion clinic should be denied because the applicant was associated with the former owner.)

237. “Which Way is Up?” Award - - Tommy Klinner and Courtney Tarver (The way they’re headed - - Courtney was promoted to Associate Commissioner, and Tommy was promoted to General Counsel, of the Ala. Dept of Mental Health.)

238. “Clairvoyance” Award - - Terry Luck and Carrie Gray (In first degree assault case where boiling water was splashed on the victim resulting in the amputation of both legs, the jury reported it was deadlocked 11 to 1 for 2nd degree assault, so Terry and Carrie astutely settled for 2d degree while the jury was still out.)

239. “Good Things Come in Threes” Award - - Wallace Mills (As a new contract public defender for Judge Reese, this former assistant City Attorney got acquittals in his first 3 criminal trials.)

240. “League of Gentlemen” Award - - Judge Truman Hobbs, Sr., Judge Joel Dubina, Judge Harold Albritton, Justice Jim Main, John Scott, Rod Nachman, and Richard Gill (They belong to the venerable Unity Club whose members write thought provoking papers for discussion by the gentlemen of the group.)

241. “Parks and Recreation” Award - - Hilary Parks and Angela Parks (These Parks women love to recreate—in parks.)

242. “Little Boy (and Girl) Blue” Award - - Tom Azar, Roianne Conner, and Win Sinclair (Tom and Roianne are former police officers, and Win is a former FBI agent, all of whom moved to a less physically strenuous area of law.)
243. “Dead Man Talking‖ Award - - Matt Ellis, Steve NeSmith and Jason Paulk (They fought – again - over who owns the Lincoln Cemetery and is obligated to restore deteriorated gravesites so the dead can stop talking (or complaining) and rest in peace.)

244. “Slab” Award - - Ben Wilson (Serves on the Board of the Jackson Hospital Foundation.)

245. “Burning Fire” Award - - “Bernie” Brannan (Both his name and his passion for his work entitle him to the award.)

246. “Chuck Berry Sweet Little Sixteen” Award - - Barbara Montoya (Montgomery’s great Personnel Director had a special birthday this year.)

247. “Mr. Deeds” Award - - Mark Sabel (He’s hugely charitable and is always performing good deeds.)

248. “A Family that Examines Together Stays Together” Award - - Alyce Addison and Billy Addison (Billy represents the Bd of Medical Examiners, and Alyce the Bd of Veterinary Examiners.)

249. “Alphabet” Award - - Spud Seale, Jayne Williams and Liz Carter (Represented Montgomery Public Schools at the inception of the grade changing investigation: “Choose an A or B or even a C, but please no D’s!”)

250. “Ronald Reagan” Award - - Will Sellers, Stan Gregory, and Hank Hutchinson (Received President’s Award for exemplary service to the Bar – and Bud’s really appreciates the help they’ve provided.)

251. “An Old Fashioned Love Song” Award - - William Ashley, Allen Sheehan, Jesse Anderson, Amanda Hines, Jamie Kidd, Joe Seawell Moore, John Marsh, Grant Sexton, Mahaley McInnes, Baron Coleman, Royal Dumas, Megan McCarthy, Mark Bain, and Tim Gallagher (Excellent, young defense lawyers whose favorite ballad is “Love me? Sue my Client!”)

252. “Liberal Arts” Award - - Morris Dees and Julian McPhillips (Republican Probate Judge Reese McKinney practiced the Art of Liberal Politics when he got Morris to endorse him, but it wasn’t enough to get Julian’s endorsement.)

253. “Game Plan” Award - - Therese Ford (In her run against Martha Roby for Congress, Therese’s game plan was for the end of days to arrive before the election so that the race might end in a tie.)

254. “Six Degrees of Separation” Award - - Roman Shaul, George Parker, Bill Coleman, and Judge Gene Reese (At the State Bar convention, they comprised a panel discussing litigation vs. arbitration in the consumer setting – there were at least six degrees of separation in their positions.)

255. “Bret Farve” Award - - Don Yancey (Came out of Retirement to become new Deputy Director of RSA.)

256. “Source Code” Award – Tommy Keene, Fred Tyson, Richard Garrett, Pat Shegon, and Peyton Chapman (They've found the formula for defending medical negligence cases.)

257. “Star Wars Columbo” Award - - Dorsey Morrow (As general counsel of (ISC)2, he’s a cyber cop.)
258. “The Constant Gardner” Award - Scott Green (After convicting 1 of 7 Oak Park shooters of assault, this outstanding Assistant DA said of the 6 yet to be tried “We’ve got a long row to hoe on this.”)

259. “Last Call” Award - Lane Mann and Bill Butler (Lane retired after 21 excellent years as Clerk of the Court of Criminal Appeals, and Bill retired after decades of devoted and outstanding service to the Medicaid Agency.)

260. “Gee, We’re Going to Miss You” Award – Justice Reneau Almon, Jody Booth, Ray Crosby, Sam Diamond, Don Gilbert, Jim Hamlett, Judge Karen Knight, Don Little, Crook McInnish, Wendell Mitchell, Jay Ott, Jim Pons, Bob Richard, Jock Smith, Bob Thorington, Judge John Tyson, Luther Waller, and Lynda Woodall

The title of this award comes from a song memorializing Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper written shortly after their deaths in a plane crash in 1959. The song is about their transformation into three new stars in the sky. The principal lyric in the song is “Gee we’re going to miss you. Everybody sends their love.”

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**Notice to Montgomery County Bar Members**

**Intent to Run for MCBA Officer or Board of Directors**

Any member of the Montgomery County Bar Association who plans to run for Secretary/Treasurer or for the 3 positions on the Board of Directors for the 2013 term must submit a letter of intent to run on or prior to December 14, 2012. **Any candidate for Secretary/Treasurer must first have served on the Board of Directors.**

The letter should be addressed to:

Ben Schoettker, MCBA Sec./Treas.
608 S. Hull Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

A copy of the letter of intent to run and a short biography and photograph must be sent to:

Suzanne B. Duffey, Executive Director
Montgomery County Bar Association
P.O. Box 72
Montgomery, AL 36101-0072

*For further information, call Suzanne Duffey at 265-4793.*
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse are often disproportionately poor and without the funds necessary to retain private counsel in civil cases; and

WHEREAS, this country is founded on the principle set forth in the Declaration of Independence, that it is a self-evident truth that all persons are created equal; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has declared that “there can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a [person] gets depends on the amount of money [s]he has,” Griffin v. Illinois, 351 U.S. 12, 19 (1956), and that “there are fundamental principles of liberty and justice which lie at the base of all our civil and political institutions . . . The right to the aid of counsel is of this fundamental character,” Powell v. Alabama, 287 U.S. 45, 67-68 (1932); and

WHEREAS, the American Bar Association in 2006 passed the following resolution:

“The American Bar Association urges federal, state and territorial governments to provide legal counsel as a matter of right at public expense to low-income persons in those categories of adversarial proceedings where basic human needs are at stake, such as those involving shelter, sustenance, safety, health or child custody, as determined by each jurisdiction” and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama and the City and County of Montgomery are without the necessary funds to fulfill this need and undertake this obligation; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Montgomery have joined together to help create One Place Family Justice Center, Alabama’s first and only center for comprehensive care for victims of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, the interests at stake in civil cases involving basic human rights and needs, including the safety of adults and children, food, clothing, shelter, and medical care, are significant and the loss thereof has serious consequences to not only the individuals directly involved but to our entire community; and

WHEREAS, the adversarial system of justice allocates to the parties the primary responsibility for discovering the relevant evidence, finding the relevant legal principles, and presenting them to a neutral judge or jury, and performing these responsibilities generally requires the knowledge and skills of a legally-trained professional; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of indigent litigants in Montgomery County, Alabama, are enmeshed in civil court proceedings without the aid of counsel; and

WHEREAS, inexperienced and untrained pro se civil litigants in Montgomery County, Alabama, constitute a substantial and growing portion of the caseloads of our state courts, and unnecessarily complicate the court process, burden our underfunded system of justice, and increase the risk of a miscarriage of justice;

WHEREAS, the trial courts, in the exercise of their discretion, are in the best position to justly determine the issues in a proceeding when litigants in civil cases are represented by counsel; and
WHEREAS, affording legal counsel to victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse is in the interests of the citizens of Montgomery County, our courts, and the legal profession;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION:

(1) That victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse should be afforded access to and representation by a licensed attorney in all civil cases brought in Montgomery County courts;

(2) That the Montgomery County Bar Association, working in consort with One Place Family Justice Center, shall provide civil legal representation to impoverished victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, stalking, and elder abuse;

(3) That all attorneys practicing in Montgomery County, Alabama who are not otherwise prohibited by statute or condition of employment from undertaking the representation of private clients are encouraged to volunteer and enroll in the Montgomery County Bar Association VLP, and agree to accept at least one referral a year.

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**Mark your calendars and plan to attend the**

**Montgomery County Bar Association’s**

**Annual Meeting and Luncheon**

**January 24, 2013**

**at the**

**Alabama Activity Center**

**201 Dexter Avenue**

**Voting for Board Members opens 11:15 and closes at 12:15.**

**Lunch Buffet opens 11:45**

**Meeting begins 12:00**

**50 year members and 2012 deceased attorneys recognized**

**New Board Members elected and inducted**

**You must RSVP if you plan to eat lunch. Cost is $20 per person.**

**Call 265-4793 or email dotrobinson@mc-ala.org before Jan.18.**